Children's Books for Summer

thelongweekend pages 8&9

Karen Krizanovich: **Nauseating** desires

New column page 18

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thelongweekend

Ulster rides a rollercoaster of relief and fear

In Northern Ireland these days one emotion has hardly time to take root before it is rudely should :red out of the way by another The dread before Drumerce was afterwards replaced: depression: yesterday it was deenly superseded by

an ever ant euphoria.

The hope is that the huge sense of relief generated by the Orange Order's dramatic decision not to press ahead with four contentious marches today, July 12, the most hallowed day in their calender, will endure, and will not abruptly supplanted by some less pleasant

That decision transformed the atmosphere - "Do you know," said one woman wonderingly, "people are walking up and down the Lisburn Road smiling." Protestants seemed as pleased as Catholics, although there is a political shadow for them in the fear that another piece of their Protestant her-

itage has been chipped away. The Orange decision was breathtaking in that it came out of the blue, and in that it had so lew precedents in the Order's two-century history, a history characterised much more by the single-minded determination to march than hy

instead of assembling in Londonderry where thousands of Bogsiders were prepared to stage protests, up to 20,000 Orangemen will gather at near-ty Limavady, where there is no chance of confrontation. In Belfast, the march scheduled



By David **McKittrick**

for the hitterly contested Lower Ormeau has been called off. ogether with two more minor parades elsewhere.

While the decision was taken by many of the Order's se-nior figures, yesterday brought signs of serious dissension in the ranks. In particular, the important County Grand Lodge of Belfast deplored the move, calling on David Trimble to lead the Ulster Unionist Party out of political talks in protest. He is unlikely to do so

Joel Patton, of the militant Spirit of Drumcree ginger group, issued a direct challenge to the Orange leadership. which he accused of showing "complete incompetency [sic] and cowardice". His call for Orangemen to "make their views known at the demonstrations" may lead to heckling at today's parades and will provide a test of the strength of feeling in the grassroots.

hut has influence in the ranks, was furious: it was a complete and total sell-out, a decision of surrender; it was Munich 1938

The decision appears to have been taken primarily on security grounds rather than political considerations. When tbe Royal Ulster Constabulary Chief Constable, Ronnie Flanagan, was invited on Thursday to the House of Orange, the Order's Belfast headquarters, he delivered a sobering and highly convincing securi-

It might have gone something like this: that with up to 75,000 Orangemen on the move right across Northern Ireland, there simply are not enough police and troops to guarantee their safety and the maintenance of public order. With Orangemen mustering at 18 major centres. there will be scores of "feeder" marches before the main demonstrations and scores more afterwards as they parade homewards.

There was the possibility of clashes with various nationalist residents groups; the possibility of the small but ruthless Irish National Liheration Army shooting at Orangemen: the possibility that disorder spread all over. With the security forces at full stretch, the unpoliced sectarian clashes.

The Rev Ian Paisley, who is is not himself an Orangeman don the Lower Ormeau pa-

when he said: "In the past I have been very sceptical of Mr Flanagan, but he clearly indicated to us that there were elements within the republican community who were looking to create the maximum amount of civil disorder. The final bottom line was that there was a significant opportunity of a loss of life, and at the end of the day we felt under those

The decision leaves many issues unresolved: a pessimist might point out that the Order preferred to make a unilateral decision, even one that went right against all its cherished traditions, rather than enter di-

circumstances it would not

be right to proceed with the pa-

alogue with nationalists. But last night most in Belfast were simply overloyed that the decision went a long way to ensuring that the Twelfth could pass off without major disorder. That was certainly the overwhelming sentiment yesterday at St Malachy's Catholic church, close to the Lower Ormeau, where a congregation gathered for a mass of thanksgiving for the unexpected Orange decision.

Father Anthony Curran said which began at one spot could—it was "a wonderful decision, a great move and everybody in this community will be delighted". It is not often that a Noel Ligget, who as district cision of the Orange Order as master of Ballynafeigh was a a miracle, but that was exactly

Oh dear me, there goes £67,000



Honey pot: I'm not throwing it, I'm dropping it Eeyore – one of a series of EH Shepard Winnie the Pooh illustrations that were sold for £205,000 at Christie's yesterday. This drawing sold for £67,500, more than four times its estimated value

over

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

Anybody who postponed buying their holiday francs last week will get the equivalent of an extra cafe au lait for every £100 they exchange this morning. In the aftermath of the Bank

of England's decision to raise interest rates on Thursday, the third increase in three months, currency traders in the City of London decided a fourth rise was on the way.

As a result they bid the pound

higher, sending it souring on the foreign exchanges yesterday. For the first time in more than six years, the pound was worth three Deutschmarks. It gained four plennigs in value during the day and also elimbed 20 centimes against the French franc to reach FF10.20.

This is grim news for industry because it will make British exports more expensive. But British holidaymakers travelling in Europe will be better off than last summer. One pound is currently worth about FFr10 compared with FFr8; Lire2,900 compared with L2.400; and 250 rather than 200 Spanish pesetas.

Building society share windfalls mean that many people will not be short of spending money. The final auction of shares in the Woolwich yesterday left them trading at a price of 296.5 pence. making the average handout worth £1,948. The quarter of shareholders who have decided | Fund for Social Workers. to sell up will get their cheques by the end of the month.

Pound 'I really, really care about ... what was the cause again?'

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

'It's a hit like going into a boxing ring - there's nowhere to hide ... Or like being in a cage. People are prodding you, asking you for autographs hut it's part of the deat," says Rory

No charity can compete in a pressured world now without celehrity endorsement - hut the higgest showbiz personalities are receiving in excess of 50 requests a week, according to agents. Even Camilla Parker Bowles

has taken the plunge - becom-ing a patron for the National Osteoporosis Society, and Thursday's Countryside March saw Jeremy Irons and Paula Hamilton rally to the cause. The result can be huge

amounts of free publicity - the Health Education Authority (HEA) estimates it received tens of thousands of pounds worth" for its nutrition drive when it secured 30 radio interviews for Ken Hom, the chef, at Chinese New Year.

But when times are hard and the competition is so severe that celebrities are having to cut back on what they do. Otherwise no sooner have they unhuckled the pads at the cricket match than it's on with the stand-up comedy and over to the harbeque. Or such was the case this week at the Allan Lamh and John McCarthy cricket match in the grounds of Althorp house, in aid of the Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture, and the Cystic Fibrosis Holiday "We're all becoming social

Cause celeb: Rory Bremner plays cricket for charity Photograph: Keith Dobney

don't have proper marketing people don't take charities seriously. People don't listen unless there is a celebrity there," says comedian Rory Bremner, one of the celebrity cricketers.

"I wouldn't describe myself as Mr Charity," added Ian Hislop, who was also attending, at the invitation of John McCarthy. "I could do nothing clse all workers. Everything is coming

down to marketing. If you that mean something to me. He prefers to help n leukaemia charity and a hospice, both of which have personal significance, but often fail to grab the attention the more "glamorous" charities do.

We do live in an age where charities have to function increasingly as businesses and the value in terms of news coverage and awareness of using a year hut I limit myself to things celebrity is obvious," said He-

len Fielding, who has pro-duced documentaries for Comic Relief and is author of Cause Celeb, a novel about the celebrity-charity link.

"It is very important that celebrities should be well informed, responsible and effective messengers, but there's no reason to get a downer on

Charities must learn to pick their celebrities carefully, agreed Jenny Hay, head of press for the HEA. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals were also less than amused when Naomi Campbell, who had previously de-clared "I'd Rather Go Naked Than Wear Fur" for their campaign, strutted down a Milan catwalk wearing animal

The publicity agent Max Clifford advises charities to secure Diana, Princess of Wales as the sure-fire way to get column inches, or failing that Cherie Booth, wife of the Prime Minister, whose profile is also good at the moment. Otherwise, charities should be lobbying George Clooney, Oasis or the Spice Girls. Neither the Prince of Wales

and Camilla Parker Bowles are popular enough to draw in the crowds, although the worst possible situation would he "Jonathan Aitken heading a morals campaign or John Major lobbying for strong leader-

ship". To be fair, celebrities could argue they need to pick their good causes just as carefully, after Paula Hamilton found out this week on the Countryside March. She ended up being bitten hy the ferret she was

Hope of BA deal

There were hopes of a compromise in the British Airways cabin crew dispute yesterday despite the industrial action causing a third day of severe disruption.

Page 4

No earthly rewards

A sacked priest was told by the Court of Appeal that he could not pursue a case alleging un-fair and racially-motivated dis-missal because his boss, God, was not of this world. Page 3

THE BROADSHEET Business & City . . 20-22 Foreign news11-15 Home news 2-10 Leading articles 17

Obituaries16 Saturday Story 18 Shares22 THE LONG WEEKEND

All Consuming 19,20

Travel 10-16 Weather29 Read The Independent

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CHILDREN IN **NORTH KOREA**

ARE DYING After three years of devastating floods, a generation of children in North Korea are on the brink of death.

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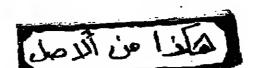
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significant shorts

Prison chiefs may use Army camps to house inmates

Prison officials are examining six Army camps as possible sites for new jails to help ease the overcrowding crisis. The use of Ministry of Defence property for makeshift jails is the latest scheme by the Prison Service which is becoming increasingly desperate to find new accommodation for inmates. The population yesterday went above the 62,000 mark for the first time.

As well as expanding the housing in existing jails officials have drawn up emergency contingency plans that include using more prison ships. However, this is seen as a last resort measure. A Prison Service spokesman said officials were "at e very preliminary stage at looking at the potential of an Army camp" to house prisoners. But before any building can begin they will almost certainly have to overcome any local opposition which has already thwarted an attempt to use a former RAF base. Jason Bennetto

Priests were victims of sex abuse

Seveo per ceot of Catholic priests have suffered child sex abuse as seven per cert of Cattolic priests have suffered child sex abuse as boys and one-third of sex abusing clergy are paedophiles, a conference was told yesterday. Terence McCarthaigh said that at least two priests within the Roman Catholic diocese of Clifton in the west of Eogland, where he runs a church child protection team, had disclosed they were sexually abused as children. The diocese has appointed a child protection officer and drawn up guidelines and policies to tackle the issue. However, he told the British Association For The Study and Protection of Child Sex Abuse and

Association For The Study and Prevenous of Child Sex Abuse and Neglect's conference in Edinburgh that abuse is more widespread.

"When a priest stands up on a Sunday and speaks to a congregation of 300 adults, around 47 of those adults will have experieoced some sort of child sex abuse. We don't know how many priests are sex abusers. Of priests who sexually abuse, around a third of them are paedophiles," he said.

Shell to recycle gas platform

Shell has removed its 6,000 toooe gas platform Leman BK off the coast of East Anglia after e nine-mooth £11m operation which has been dogged by rough seas and technical fault. The last component, standing in 109 feet of water, has been lifted from the sea by a gigantic crame and shipped to Teesside in Cleveland, where 99 per ceor of the platform will be recycled.

Ben Field

Aga Khan's £6m anniversary gift



The Aga Khan has dooated £6m to a British-based institute of religious and cultural studies. The grant, to the Institute of Ismaili Studies in Loodoo, was one of several gifts totalliog £31m handed out by the Aga Khan (pictured) to mark his 40th year as Imam spiritual leader – of the world's 15 millioo Ismaili Muslims. It will go towards an endowment to enbance the financial capacity of the institute, which was founded by the Aga Khan, The Institute works to promote scholarship and learning

relating to Muslim cultures and contributing to a better understanding of their relationship with other societies and faiths.

265m take virtual trips to Mars

Roughly 265 million people bave good to Mars in the past week at least, virtually, by visiting the Internet sites set up by the US space agency Nasa to show pictures and results from the Pathfinder mission. Among the sights [at the sites] is a virtual reality simulation of the lander and its immediate surroundings, using the photographs taken at the scene: the computer program lets the viewer swoop around and view the sceoe from any angle. The Nasa scientists are using it to interpret their results so far and plan the rover's oext moves, after crashing it into a rock oo Thursday night.

Each day, the 19 sites oo the World Wide Web showing pictures and data direct from Mars have received roughly 45 millioo "hits" - individual requests for files or informetion - from leternet users around the world. The oumber is a new record for sustained interest in a single eveot on the Internet, though the record for a single day is still held by the interest shown in the American election results last November, when 50 million people accessed a site run by the US news network CNN.

Charles Arthur

Hunters seek right to chase deer

Deer hunters will launch e High Court bid on Monday for the right to cootinue chasing deer oo National Trust land. They are to ask e judge for permission to challenge a trust decision not to renew deer hunting licences from the eod of last April. Seeking leave to apply for judicial review, they are expected to argue that the decisioo takeo by the trust's council on 10 April was reached unfairly. They say they have a "legitimate expectation" that, unless and until deer buoting is outlawed, the trust would not seek to ban it on its land. They will also ask for an injunction to stop the bao being implemented peoding a full High Court hearing.

Death-fall friends released on bail

Three friends of a man who died in a fall from an apartment balcony io Ibiza were yesterday released on police bail pending further inquiries following their arrest in connection with his suspicious death. A Devon and Cornwall police spokesman said that Russell Braund, Jason Barrow and Stephen Gagg, all 23, who were arrested at their homes in Barnstaple, north Devon, oo Thursday, in connection with the death of Jamie Morgan, 22, must report back to Charles Cross police station. Plymouth, oo 20 July. Mr Morgan, also from Barnstaple, died from multiple injuries after falling 40 feet at the El Moro apartment block, San Antonio, on 23 June, about 24 hours after his arrival on a Club 18-30 holiday.

Penicillin mould fetches £14,950

A sample of the mould frum which Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin fetched £14,950 at Christic's in London yesterday. The mould, in a wooden box with inscribed brass plate. was bought on behalf of the Science Museum in Londoo.

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she claimed it was of poor quality and fed it to the rabbit. Brown explained after the hearing. "Bonkers was e lovely, gentle creature - a bit like Dillon out of the Magic Roundabout

"He would eat it like grass, get high, crash out for e while, then come back for more. He didn't like resin, but would

Unhappy ending for spaced-out drugs bunny happily munch eway on cannabis bush. He would have cannable for every

"Where do you think Shimon

In New York?" she reportedly

asked the interviewer. That was

Peres spends the night when he is

widely interpreted as e allusion to

Collette Avital, Israel's consul-gen-

eral in the city. The TV station said that in e letter

to Ms Avital, Ms Netanyahu wrote:

"As you have no doubt heard, I apol-

ogised in the media for any offence

angry over provocative questions put to me in the TV studio." Mrs. Netanyahu has been

hounded by unflattering publicity

eince her husband was elected

Prime Minister last year.

which I may have caused when I got

meal from breakfast at 7am to an evening meal. He didn't seem to like carrots and would leave them - but he loved hie cannabis ... and did not show any signs

of being hurt by it." Robin Walker, a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons, said it would have done him no harm. "It could have affected his memory but rabbits aren't too hot on poetry any-

He said he had not met e doped-up rabbit before but had once seen an Italian whippet on LSD.

In court, Brown admitted possess cannabls worth £350 and a small emount of amphetamines and was ordered to do 50 hours' community service and pay £40 costs.

people



Supermodel Claudia Schiffer (above) admitted last-night that she was p event where she first met the US illusionist David Copperfield. But st legation in Paris Metch magazine that their relationship is a cynical si her career, Schiffer's publicists Rogers and Cowan said in a statement. Th Claudia Schiffer and David Copperfield have a contract or any sort of financial area pretend to be in love is 100 per cent false."

Parker Bowles to escape prosecution over car crash

amilia Parker Bowles will not be prosecuted over e car crash in a country lane while driving to the Prince of Wales's Highgrove Estate, it was

ennounced yesterday. The Crown Prosecution Service has decided that there is insufficient evidence to bring charges over the head-on accident involving Mrs Parker Bowles, 50, and Carolyn Melville-Smith, 53, last month. Neither woman was seriously hurt in the collision between Norton and Easton Grey, near Malmesbury,-Wiltshire.

Ms Melville-Smith, of Easton Grey, whose Volvo estate car turned on its side in the eccident, leaving her trapped by her skirt, which was caught in the car door, claimed Mrs Parker Bowles "appeared like a missile" at the wheel of a Ford Mondeo before the impact.

Mrs Parker Bowles left the scene of the accident to use her mobile telephone to call the ambulance service and police from a nearby hill, She then called the Rrince, who was expecting her for dinner at nearby Highgrove House, his Gloucestershire home...

He sent his own police bodyguard, to the scene with two of his valets and two other members of staff. Mrs

Netanyahu cools

controversy over

sex allegations

Sarah Netanyahu, the controver-

sial wife of the Israeli Prime Minis-

ter, has asked an Israeli court to

letters held by her first husband.

this month, the Prime Minister's

wife had accused her first hus-

ly recording some of their

about Mrs Netanyahu.

bar publication of audio tapes and

In an Israel TV interview earlier

band, Doron Neuberger, of secret-

conversations. Mr Neuberger has

Mrs Netanyahu has also apolo-

gised to Israel's outgoing consul-general in New York for reportedly

suggesting that the official had an

affair with the former Prime Minis-

month, Mrs Netanyahu reportedly

whether she used her husband's

admitted infidelity as leverage. At

angry exchange was edited out of

But newspaper reports quoted her as suggesting infidelity was rife among politiciane and many of

It is a cautionary anti-drugs story for our time. Bonkers the cannabis-munching

rabbit died when he was too stoned to

escape the clutches of a Staffordshire

The RSPCA investigated whether it

was cruel to get the six-month-old

bunny high. But it was straightforward

druge charges which landed hie own-

er Gillian Brown before magistrates In

The court was told that unemployed

Brown, 32, grew cannabis alongside the

M5 in Huntworth near Bridgwater, But

Bridgwater, Somerset

them had propositioned her.

Mrs Netanyahu's insistence, the

lost her temper when asked

the broadcast.

While taping a TV interview last

said he planned to write e book

Parker Bowles told the police she had not remained at the scene of the accident or exchanged details with the other driver, as required by law, because she was concerned about the security risk.

Ms Melville-Smith, an interior designer, of Easton Grey, said yesterday; "I don't want Camilla to be prosecuted because it won't get me anywhere. So long as I am not left out of pocket I am happy to let the matter rest. At the moment we are sorting it all out through our Insurance companies but if I don't get full compensation (think) will write to Camilla. It would be really bitchy if I did pursue it because Camilla has a hard enough time anyway and she would only get more bad press."

The decision not to bring charges was partly due to Ms Melville-Smith's refusal to make an official complaint. However, even she had complained, it is un-derstood that there was still insufficient evidence to bring charges. A police spokesman said: "There were no independent somesses to this raccide idence available at the scene, such as skid marks and other marks, when taken in Isolation, was not sufficient to justify or support a prosecution."

Teacher wins her case but loses job

A dance teacher yesterday won her claim for unfair dismiss against the Royal Ballet School but she will not get her job back.

Ms Linda Goss had alleged that she was fired in 1996 because she repeatedly alleged that children were builied and mocked by staff. But an industrial tribunal in

Croydon, south Landon, while agreeing that she was unfairly dismissed, said it was because the school needed to make changes in staff, not through victimisation after her complaints.

Ms Goss, 44, of Victoria Road, Dartmouth, Devon, asked for her old £27,000-à-year job as e ballet teacher back. But the school refused, saying it would be "totally inappropriate" because she was no longer trusted because of the claims she had made.

The tribunal eupported that view and instead she was awarded £11,300 in compensation.

It had ruled that she was untainly dismissed from the top school because staff had not discussed the matter with her or given any consideration to redeployment at the

RABBIT PHIGH

GAMBLING

Casinos turning the tables after Lottery setback

Casinos, bingo halls and scratchcard operators are fighting back against the National Lottery, according to figures published

A total of £2.6be was swapped for chips in casines in Britain last year - up 2 per coot on the year before, according to the anoual report of the Gaming Board for Great Britain. Stakes in Britaio's 850 bingo balls rose 7 per cent to nearly £1bu and the amount of money spect on registered executions. money speet on registered scratchcards and other lotteries shot up

Board spokesman Tom Kavanagh said: "The National Lottery undoubtedly did hit gambling, but most of the industries we deal with seem to have come through and are winning the battle."

The report says the number of lotteries organised by societies—the vast mejority of them contains the part of them are the contained from 1.863 to the vast mejority of them scratchcards – increased from 1,862 to 2.443, increasing ticket sales from £79m to £115m. However, lotteries organised by local euthorities declined sharply from 47 to 18, with takings sinking to £260,000 from £600,000 in 1995-96.

Around 11 million people visited casinos, spending £2.6bn with American roulette by far the most popular game ahead of punto

Around 11 million people visited casinos, spending 22 days after American roulette by far the most popular game ahead of punto banco and blackjack. The report reveals that London has 21 casinos – more than any other capital city in the world.

Of the cash speet in casinos, 80 per cent was paid out in winnings to punters, leaving around £470m for operators.

ENVIRONMENT

Surfers at higher risk of hepatitis

Surfers are three times more tikely to get the liver disease hepatitis A than the general public, e scientific survey has

The author of the report, Alistair Gammie, said: "There is significant correlation between the number of years surfed eod the frequency of surfing and increased risk of ocquiring the disease. We recommend that all surfers should be informed of the availability of a safe effective vaccine for bepatitis A which would offer them protection from the increased risk. Chris Hines, general secretary of the pressure group Surfers

Against Sewage, believes the results back his call for all coastal discharges of human waste to be properly treated by disinfection or microfiltration.

He said: "If water companies are aware of the risk and unaware of ways of minimising that risk, then it could be argued that they would be

clearly negligent oot to do so ... Hepatitis A has been shown to survive for up to 100 days in salt water, therefore the risk is not adequately dealt with by the pump and dump mentality of partially treated long sea ootfalls. We doo't want the risk dispersed or diluted we want it dealt with,"



EDUCATION

Arts council in schools plea

Pupils should heve compulsory lessons in the arts from the time they arrive in school et five to the minimum leaving age at 16, the

Arts Council said yesterday.

Launching its new education and training policy, the council said it was wrong that mandatory study of subjects such as drama, music, dance and the visual arts should stop at 14, as at present.

Arts leaders want a review of the national curriculum, due in 2000, to place arts subjects firmly on the school timetable. Schools should be encouraged to bave a formal arts policy and appoint a governor to have special responsibility for arts training, and teacher training should equip staff to teach the subject, the council says. In practice, schools are likely to subscribe to the spirit of the policy but may not be willing to put all its recommendations into practice. Reachers already feel the national curriculum is overcrowded, leaving them too little flexibility.

MEDICINE

Mothers warned off antibiotics

Antibiotics are best evolded in children with ear oche because they do oot bring quicker relief and contribute to the growth of resistant organisms, researchers sey.

Three out of 10 children under the age of three get the ear

infection known as otitis media eod 97 per cent are given antibiotics. But e review of seven trials comparing antibiotic therapy with plecebo, published in the British Medical Journal .
found there was little evidence that those given antibiotics recovered more quickly, had fewer recurrences or a bed a better long-term outcome. The researchers, from Boston University in the US, say the use of antibiotics in the condition results in the emergence of resistant organisms in the children and in the community. Ear oche is better treated with painkillers, especially where the diagnosis is uncertain, they say.

Jeremy Laurance

Why sex can be fatal for lesbians

Stereotyped media images of "killer dykes" and American Christian fundamentalism mean that 40 per cent of the women oo death row in American prisons are lesbians or had an implication of lesbianism raised against them at their trial a Channel 4 documentary will allege oo Monday. This compares with estimates that the proportion of lesbians in

the general population is no higher than 10 per cent.

The programme looked at the trials of the 46 women awaiting execution in the US and found that prosecutors used their sexual history – implying lesbianism, prostitution or promiscuity to secure the death penalty. The programme will argue that a mixture of Christian fundamentalism in parts of America and model and a secure of the death penalty.

Christian fundamentalism in parts of America and media images of lesbians influeoce the decisions of judges and juries. Paul McCano

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IN TOMORROW'S

INDEPENDENT

Five sections for the very best in news, features, sport, business, travel,

property and money

Q: Why don't priests have employment rights? A: Because they find their reward in Heaven

Kim Sengupta

Blessed are the servants of the Lord - but ant apparently when it comes to the protection of employment laws, a sacked priest discovered at the Court uf Appeal yesterday.

The Rev Alex Coker was inid he

could not have access to earthly pow-ers to pursue a case alleging unfair and racially-motivated dismissal because his boss, God, was ant of this world.

In a landmark ruling, Lords Justices Staughton, Ward and Mummery disgyman against an Employment at St Philip's Church in Cheam,

from taking his case before an industrial tribunal.

Lord Justice Staughton said: "A minister of religion serves God and his congregation but does not have an employer. There is not a contract that

he will serve a terrestrial employer in

the performance of his duties". Discussing the argument that a clergyman's employer was God, the judge added: "I don't think you have an address for him so you will not be able to serve any documents".

Dr Cnker, who is black, was sacked missed an appeal by the Anglican cler- from his £12,000-a-year post as curate Appeals Tribunal ruling harring him south-west London, in May 1994,

losing a home and a car that came with the jnb. He says the Bishop of Croydon, who sacked him, had nevwith the jnb. He says the Bishop of Croydon, who sacked him, had nev-

er given a reason for the dismissal. The 48-year-old priest had been or-dained by the Bishop of London in June 1986 and worked for the next four years as an unpaid minister in the parish of St Peter's, Belsize Park, north Loudon. With the agreement of the Bishop of Snuthwark, he took up his first paid appointment as curate to the vicar of St Luke's, Woodside, in November 1990. The job was terminated by the Bishop of Croydon in November 1993 and Dr Coker was then given a six-month appointment

case to an industrial tribunal claiming his dismissal was unfair and racially motivated, he was told the mibunal did possess the powers to ad-

judicate on the matter. However, the Church of England holds that clergy work for God, ant the church, and are office holders, not employees, and so have no protection under employment law. This view was upheld when it took the case to the Employment Appeals Tribunal last year.

Dr Coker had taken his action

the post at St Luke's in 1990 was a con- serving God was not acceptable to the tract of employment. Representing him, counsel Joseph Hage asked; "Why should Dr Coker, who has dedicated his life to serving the church, not be entitled to rely on the Em-

ployment Protection Act? "Is is right that Dr Coker should lose his home, income and career without even being given the possi-hility of making a complaint in the courts?

Paul Goulding, for the Bishop, told the court that as a curate Dr Cok-

against the Bishop of Southwark at the Court of Appeal arguing that a letter from the Bishop offering him a servant of God. If his manner of church then his pastorate could be ended by the church.

Mr Goulding added that a cirate's working life was carried out in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer and the Ordinal. God, and not the Bishop was his employer.

The neiginal one-day hearing was a fortnight ago, when judgement was reserved. Yesterday the Court of Appeal judges ruled that Dr Coker was not employed under a contract, and his appeal was dismissed. ...

Curtains

as Covent

Garden

goes

into exile

The Royal Ballet last night gave its final performance at Covent Garden,

central London, before the two-year

closure for its controversial £213m

redevelopment.
Irek Mukhamedov, Darcey Bussell,

Sylvie Guillem and all the company's

leading dancers were taking part in a

mixed programme featuring Twyla Tharp's Push Comes To Shove, William

Forsythe's Steptest, Pyotr Gusev's ver-

sion of The Talisman pas de deux and George Balanchine's Symphony in C.

On Manday, artists from both the

Royal Ballet and Royal Opera will

participate in the very last extrava-

Darcey Bussell, which will be

closed for two years for the renova-

tion, being done with the help of a £78m National Lottery grant. The Royal Opera and Royal Ballet will

The Royal Ballet is going to the Royal Festival Hall on London's

South Bank, and to the Labatt's

Apollo, Hammersmith, while the

Royal Opera is set to perform at the

Barbican in the City of London, the

Shaftsbury Theatre, the Royal Albert

Hall, the Royal Festival Hall and at the Edinburgh Festival.

heen tarnished by controversy sur-

rounding the departure of the chief

executive, Gerusta McIntosh, and

her replacement with the Arts Coun-

A dance leacher yesterday won her

claim for unfair dismissal against the

Royal Ballet School - but she will oot

get her joh hack. Linda Goss had al-

leged that she was fired because in 1996 because she repeatedly alleged

that children were a hullied and

But an industrial tribunal in Croy-

don, while agreeing she was unfairly

dismissed, said it was because the

school needed to make changes in staff, not through victimisation.

mocked by staff.

cil secretary-general, Mary Allen.

The last weeks of the two companies at the Royal Opera Hnuse have

The Royal Opera Hnuse will be

screened live on BBC2.

now go "on the road"

ganza before closure; the Farewell Gala, featuring Placido Domingo, Bryn Terfel, Sylvic Guillem and

David Lister

Arts News Editor

IN SUMMER READING

A special edition of

the Sunday Review featuring new stories and poems from today's brightest literary stars - including - John Updike (above), Jeanette Winterson, Blake Morrison, Candia McWilliam and

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Proms last night is ours, says the BBC

David Lister Arts News Editor

Prom wars have broken out between the BBC and classical music promoters using the title Last Night Of The Proms

The BBC claims the world famous phrase for the end of their season of promenade concerts belongs to the corporation. And one leading classical music promoter has been warned by BBC lawyers that he cannot use

the words for one of his concerts. The word "proms" is used by a number of orchestras in the UK. Only last week the Halle orchestra in Manchester staged its own Last Night Of The Proms. At least seven other Last Night Of The Proms concerts are being staged by orchestras this summer.



The 'real' Proms: does using their name make other concerts better?

But now the BBC is saying it should have sole use of the title for classical music concerts.

However, the promnter Raymond Gubbay, who is presenting twn Last Nights of the Proms to round off his lakeside concert seasons at Crystal Palace in London (ironically, with the BBC Concert Orchestra) and at Penshurst Place in Kent, yesterday fired off an indignant letter to the BBC legal department saying he had no intention of changing his mind.

In a letter to BBC lawyer Tristram Kennedy Harper, Mr Gubbay says: "I refer to ... your use of the phrase 'rip-ping off the BBC' in relation to our use of programme titles and material for one of our open-air summer

"I find it entirely unacceptable that an employee of the BBC should wish to comment on our activities with such an ill-judged and insulting comment. We promote over 200 performances per year of concerts, opera and ballet, involving dozens of or-chestras and hundreds of artists of all kinds, without any recourse to public subsidy or money from licence-pay-ers. To try to paint us as you did as some kind of cowboy outfit is as in-

accurate as it is insulting."
The BBC responded with a statement from its Intellectual Property Department saying: "The BBC's le gal department did write to Raymond Gubbay objecting to the promotion of a concert at Penshurst Place under the title Last Night Of The Proms. The BBC has recently been concerned that various enneert organisers have been using the term Proms' to promote their concerts in such a way that might suggest a con-nection with the BBC Proms - in one case using photographs of a BBC Last Night Of The Proms in their publicity material.

The BBC has been broadcasting and has been solely responsible for the organisation of the Henry Wood Promenade Concerts, now simply known as The Proms, since 1927. The Proms are perhaps the most famous concert festival in the world and generate an incalculable reputation and goodwill far the BBC. A considerable portinn of the BBC's income from licence-payers goes towards the annual Proms festival. The BBC takes stops to protect its rights in its trade marks and programme titles and it would be surprising if it did not also seek to pro-

tect its reputation in The Proms. While the term 'prom' can of course be used descriptively, the BBC does think it reasonable to ohject when it believes that a connectinn with the BBC is being suggested and that the public might be misled."

Mr Gubhay said last night: "I utterly refuse to recognise any BBC ownership of the word proms or the title Last Night Of The Proms. Promenade concerts are staged by promoters all over the country. Are they seriously telling me that people sitting in the middle of a field in Kent might get confused into thinking they are in the Royal Albert Hall? now fully intend to run a whole concert series entitled Last Night Of The Proms this winter."



New stager: Irek Mukhamedov performing the pas de deux from The Talisman Photograph: Laurie Lewis

Michael Streeter

The journey to the modern world has been a gradual one for freemasonry. its path punctuated by significant events; an inquiry by backbench MPs, a recent waspish television docu-mentary, and satirisation on Coronation Street.

Now the followers of the Great Architect have been given that crucial element of any late 20th century pursuit - the publication of its own magazine. Coming_soon to a newsagent near you is Freenusonry Today, a glossy mag, price £2.20, written for "everyone with an interest in

Although its first quarterly edition is available only on subscription, attracting a healthy 27,000 so far, the company hopes it will soon takes its place alongside the array of fishing. sporting and lifestyle titles on newsagent shelves. Whether it can at-tract the casual browser over the rival appeal of Louded, Rughy World. or Company, is doubted by some

critics. The list of contents underlines the largely serious tone of the journal, with headlines such as Why Ritual Excellence?, In those days the Masters carried Swords, and Making History: Elius Ashmole & the Origins of Speculative Freemasonry. The adverts are also revealing, offering a chance to buy the best quality regalia for members, or the opportunity - for just £24.99 - to obtain a video of the "ultimate tour". That is, footage of

Freemasons' Hall in Londun. However, the magazine also con-tains a few surprises, including a piece written by a pop music composer eulogising fellow-mason Mozart (whose The Magic Flute was in one sense a publicity puff for freemasonry) and a review of a new CD collection from the late Jimi Headrix.

The editor, Tobias Churton, himself a freemason, believes general readers will be attracted as well as the estimated 350,000 members in

England and Wales. "The aim is to spread the the knowledge of the ma-sonry to masons and the general public. Its history, theory, philosophy and presence throughout the

He added:"There has been a dearth of such information which has meant that masons have had to rely on exaggerated and mythologised

Although the founders of the publication are all masons and any profits will go to charity, there are non-masons involved in the production. Mr Churton is using designers Remote Stone, a group of young people more associated with CD covers and rave ticket designs. "They are young and npen-minded and I realwanted them to be involved with

the magazine," he said.

Although described as "independent", Freemasonry Today is fully hacked by the United Grand Lodge of England. Its spokesman, John Hamili, said it had long been look-ing for such a publication, in a effort to move away from the secrecy that surrounded the organisation in the 1950s and 1960s.

He said:"There is a tradition of masonic journalism and there used to be a monthly illustrated magazine. The tradition was interrupted by the



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Mandela finds freedom in Oxford

lan Burrell

The South African President, Nelson Mandela, was greeted by thousands of cheering admirers in Oxford yesterday wheo he arrived to receive the Freedom of the City.

Accompanied by his partner, Graca Machel, Mr Mondela, 78, received a rapturous reception from a crowd of about 2,000 when he arrived at Oxford Town Hall.

He said: "Naturally, we have looked forward to this day very eagerly because of the significance of Oxford, not only for the British people, but in the world. It is a centre of excellence and we are happy to be associated with it."

Thanking the university Chancellor, Dr Peter North. for his welcome, Mr Mandela said South Africa was

indebted to the city and its colleges for their "generous and practical solidarity" in the fight against apartheid. He said many exiled Sonth African freedom campaigne had found the doors of universities such as Oxford open to them, allowing them educational opportunities not possible in their homeland.

Democratic South Africa has drawn great benefit from its relationship with Oxford and we are only at the beginning of our

association," he said.

After the ceremony, Mr
Mandela and Mrs Machel emerged from the town hall and delighted the waiting crowds with a walkabout, shaking hands with dozens of well-wishers before being driven off in his limousine to speak at the Bodleian Library.

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BA chief's overture as more air chaos looms

Barrie Clement and Randeep Ramesh

A whiff of compromise in the British Airways cabin-crew dis-pute was in the air yesterday as the industrial action caused a third day of severe disruption. The airline managed to get 76 flights aloft yesterday, less than 35 per cent of the scheduled timetable from Heathrow. Gatwick lost 12 services - because cabin-crew staff there

belong to "EuroGatwick", formerly Dan Air, which pays staff even less than the proposed BA

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The walk-out by cahin crew forced British Airways to cancel hundreds of flights and left tens of thousands of people stranded. Things do not look much better this weekeod for Heathrow. Because many planes are out of "position", BA say only 90 short-haul services and 75 per cent of long-haul flights will operate.

Management also hoped for fresh talks yesterday to avert separate strikes by 9,000 ground staff after the rejection of a new management offer. Further action by cabin crew coupled with ground staff could ground BA's fleet. Bob Ayling, BA's chief executive, called on the Transport. and Geogral Workers Union to Bill Morris: Receive put forward their proposals to from Bob Kyling settle the dispute involving stewards and stewardesses, who.

came to the eod of a three-day walk-out at 6am this morning.

Io a letter to Bill Morris, TGWU general secretary, Mr Ayling asked to see the union's plans to save £42m in cabincrew costs, the issue at the centre of the conflict, which has led to the threat of a series of three-day stoppages. If the sug-gestions are "realistic" Mr ing said he would be happy to meet the TGWU and breakaway unioo Cabin Crew 89 to work out a deal. It would have to be "acceptable to all parties" and "better" than the deal alunioo and imposed on all cmplovees.

back at work today if they refused to work normally. Talks would only be possible if his members were not "victimised".

offici golde vere

But BA executives told reporters yesterday that crew would have to sign o "non-disruption" pledge. The company said it will also question the 1,900 staff who called in sick. Those unable to produce a doctor's note will have to "explain themselves". Despite strained relations,

Mr Ryde welcomed the management gesture and said his union would look again at its existing suggestions, which management calculated would only A decision on more stop-



s by cabin crew is scheduled for Monday, when representatives of ground staff will also decide whether to set dates for the start of their own campaign. There were indications yesterday, however, that management would be prepared to improve the offer to catering staff. The company plans to sell the catering division, and the transport union opposes this. The airline has offered employees substantial about future conditions.

The new moves towards a peace formula emerged yesterday after Mr Morris said the ready signed by the minority end of cabin crews' three-day strike would enable both sides to "pause for peace". Mr Ayling sent him a letter arguing that sented the best way through, he

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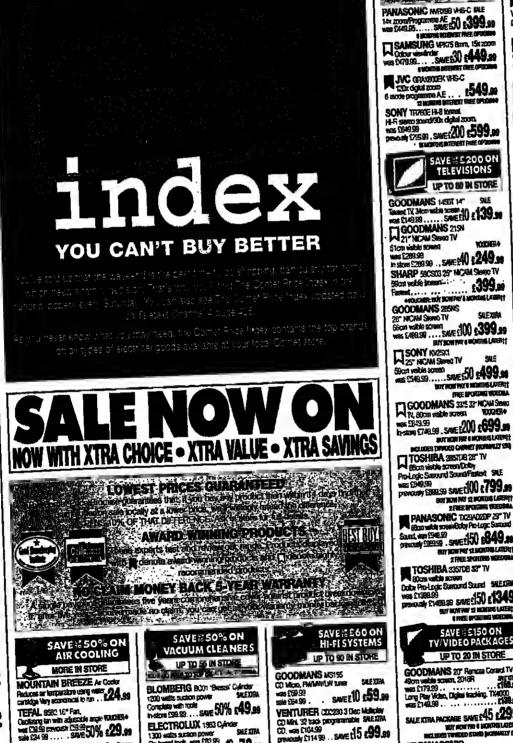
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George Ryde, national official for Civil Aviation for the while the imposed deal repretransport union, hoped management would rescind a threat would be prepared to look at to suspend strikers arriving further TGWU suggestions. EXCEPTIONALVALUE COO SUMMER BREAKS PER PERSON Including bull in the Linglish Breaklast Cotswolds CHIEDRES WELCOME Staying at one of the UK's finest hotels Standing in attractive grounds, the Golden Valley Hotel at Cheltenhom offers the highest standard of refinement, comfort and service. Shop in Regency Cheltenham or explore the beautiful conotryside and villages of the Cotswolds. ROOK BY HST JULY AA/RAC 4 Star Hotel. 124 Bedrooms with private bathrooms, colour TVs with Sky. The finest European cuisine in the Burford Room. Relax in the Cocktail Bar and enjoy light refreshments in our attractive Garden Lounge and Patio. Superb Leisure Club with indoor swimming pool, sauna, solarium, beauty salon & gymnasium ? floodlit all-wayather tennis courts Children welcome. When sharing adults' room under 6's stay and cat FREE, 6-15 year olds stay FREE, £5 each per breaklast. Only 1 mile from jet 11 of the MS; ideal for visiting the Cotswokls, Oxford, Bath & Stratford-upon-Avon, ASK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT TO BOOK THROUGH HIGHLIFE ON 0800 700 400 OR CALLTHE HOTEL ON 01242 232691

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Official: those golden oldies were the best

Media Correspondent

The baby-boomers' refrain that pop music has gone down hill since the Sixties has been confirmed by a poll of pop experts that seems to show the art of the

single peaked in 1966. The Beach Boys "Good Vibrations" heads a list of the top 100 singles of all time as picked by more than 100 singers, songwriters, musicians and producers for this mooth's Mojo

Only one single released in the Nineties - "Smells Like Teen Spirit" by Nirvana - makes it on the list. The rest is domioated by acts from the Sixties like The Beatles, the Rolling Stones and the Beach Boys.

Lane - The Seates (1967) 3 Like A Rolling Stone - Sob Cytes,

(1965)
4 Be My Baby - The Honelies (1963)
5 I Heard It Through The Grapovitic—Mavin Gaye. (1965)
6 (I Can't Get No) Senstaction—The Rolling Stones. (1965)
7 Hey, by differentiation—The Senter.

ina funter (1965) Smalls Like Teen Spirit – Nivana.

(1964) 12 Hey Joe - The Jimi Hendrix Experi-

ence (1966) 12 You've Lost That Lovin' Feelin' --The Pichicous Brothers, (1964) 14 I Want To Hold Your Hand - The

1-1 Wants to more reasonable for the Seatles, (1963)
15 Respect - Arethe Frankin, (1967)
16 Resthreak Houl- Dus Presis, (1965)
7 (Shitin On) The Dock Of The Bay
Ons Reciding, (1967)
18 Born To Run-Brico Springstein, (1975)

1977) 21 Family Affair - Sly And The Family

Harum, (1967) 23 Dancing In The Street - Martha & The Vandellas, (1964)

The Eighties does no better Mojo's features editor Paul oo the list than the Nineties, with "Just When Doves Cry" by Prince making the list. The Seventies do better thanks to a number of eotries by David Bowie, hut there is only "God Save The Queen" by the Sex Pistols to represent the entire punk and post-punk era. No dance music single from the last 10 years made the list. But the magazine insists the

music industry people ques-tioned were not all ageing hippies and rock dinosaurs.

In fact those voting included Ian Broudie, lead singer of The Lightening Seeds, Noel Gal-lagher of Oasis and even former Take That star Gary Barlow. "It wasn't just a hunch of old farts we questioned," said

24 Summertime Blues - Eddle Cochran (1958)
25 That'll Be The Day - Buddy Holly 16 The Cickets (1957)
35 When Dowes Cry - Princs 1984
25 Trinning Lagis, Flash - The Rolling Stries 1969
26 Cod Cight Town Trabech Bos (1986)
29 Paperises White Flain - The Beatles (1969)
30 You Flashy Scales - Trabech Track (1964)
31 A Change In Count Coins - Sam Cooke (1964)

Tops 33 I Carr't Stand The Rain - Ann Fee-

(1969) 50 Honky Tonk - Bil Doggett, (1956)

The Mojo top 50

Trynka. "It was a cross-section, although everyone who voted had to have a good number of hits themselves. "The Sixties singles did well because there's more unanim-

ity about hits from the Sixties. Musical genres now have splintered and people named all sorts of different bands from the Mr Trvnka believes Nirvana did well because that one song

invected the "grunge" move-ment and hard a huge influence across all sorts of styles of music. But he thinks the art of the pop single could be little im-proved on after the Beach Boys: Like any art form the principles are established fairly soon. By 1968 they had dooe everything that could be done with a single. Even if you look at experimental techniques used by musicians like The Chemical Brothers its hard to say they're coming up with anything more complex than 'Good Vibrations'."

Paul McCartney, one of those surveyed, told Mojo that "Good Vibrations" and the group's album Pet Sounds were phenomenal: "It really was a big turn on for me. I can still listeo to it and go sheeit, how did he ever think of that."

complete masterpiece."

"Good Vibrations" and Per Sounds were largely the inspiration of Brian Wilson, who used the special effects stand-by from sci-fi movies, the Theremin, on the track to give the "vibration" sound. He was also one of the first musicians to use an eighttrack recording equipment to mix multiple layers of sound and create what he described himself as a "pocket symphony".



Class of '67: The original Radio 1 line-up, below, and the mature regrouping yesterday: back row, left to right, Tony Blackburn, Jimmy Young, Duncan Johnson, Dave Cash, Robin Scott; middle row, Bob Holness, Terry Wogan, Keith Skues, Chris Denning, Pete Myers, and Pete Brady (bearded) above; front row, Pete Murray, Ed Stewart, Pete Drummond, Mike Ahern

Main photograph: David Rose

First timers now the old timers

We're the no hair people," joked Pete Myers, 58, introducing the cast of original BBC Radio 1 disc jockeys assemhled on the steps of All Soul's Church outside Broadcasting House.

A hit of thinning on top was to be expected. It was, after all, 30 years since And proving the breadth of they had struck the same pose for the launch of Radio 1. Now they were of Nineties Indie hand The Seahorses, described it as "Spine tinglingly inspired. A screened later this year."

"Only someone with a diseased imag-ination could have thought it possible," said John Peel, 58, the only surviving record spinner at Radio 1. He sat beside Mike Ahem, 54, who holds the record for the shortest tenancy of any Radio 1 slot. The pair were asked to present a programme called *Top Gear*, but after ooe hour it became clear that Mr Ahern was oot the man for the joh. "He was fantastic. I was awful," be explained. "He's right," Peel agreed. Some were clearly feeling their age.

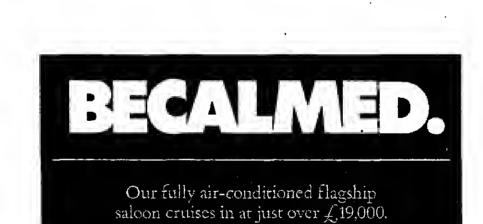
Terry Wogan, 59, remarked: "It'll probably take me 10 minutes to get out of four times a week and termis twice, "I've this position. I'm surprised we doo't all never over exerted myself, put it that way, oeed wheelchairs." Others, such as Pete so it woo't be much different." Murray, were taking the prospect of re-tirement in their stride. The always been launching Radio 1 and Radio 2, surveyed

Robin Scott, 77, who was in charge of retired," said Mr Murray, 72, who hosts the scene. He wore his 30-year-old

cardboard "Tm a Radio 1 one upman" badge and clutched faded cuttings of his finest hour as he considered how a certain carrot-haired character would have gone down then. Chris (Evans) would have been way ahead of the time," he began tactfully. "That style of having the gang in the background and the hurly burly amosphere is not one I would have gone for. ... It was all in-jokes. You couldn't hear half what he was saying."
Tony Blackburn, 54, first to go on air

in 1967, with the words: "Welcome to the exciting sound of Radio 1" before putting the first record on the turntable: "Flowers In The Rain" by The Move. was last to pitch up at the photo call. "Is this it?" he said, rushing onto the steps.

Perhaps he was referring to some notable absences from the class of '67, not least the much-missed Kenny Everett, who died of Aids in 1995, and the late Mike Raven and Barry Aldiss. Johnny Moran, Mike Lennox, Dave Rider and David Symonds were unable to attend the picture recreatioo yesterday. Arts Notebook, Long Weekend, page 4



MS patient wins right to costly treatment

Jeremy Laurance Health Editor

A patient suffering from mulriple sclerosis won a court battle to obtain an expensive new drug yesterday after a judge crit-icised his health authority for "unacceptable and inconsistent" excuses for not supplying the treatment.

Kenneth Fisher, 33, who was diagnosed with MS in 1987, was assessed as suitable for treat-ment with beta-interferon, used in extend periods of remission from the disease, in January 1996. He oever received the drug, which costs £10,000 a year, because North Derbyshire health authority operated what was in effect a blanket ban despite explicit instructions from ministers that the drug should be made available oo the basis

of clinical oeed.

Mr Justice Dyson accused the aothority of using "creative constraints" and being "disingenuous" io its attempts to avoid implementing national policy and hold the line on an

"unsustainable" position.
The judge said Mr Fisher's condition had since deteriorated and there was now a question of whether he would still beoefit from the drug. Giving the health authority 14 days to reconsider its decision not to fund his treatment, he said: "This is a matter on the conscience of

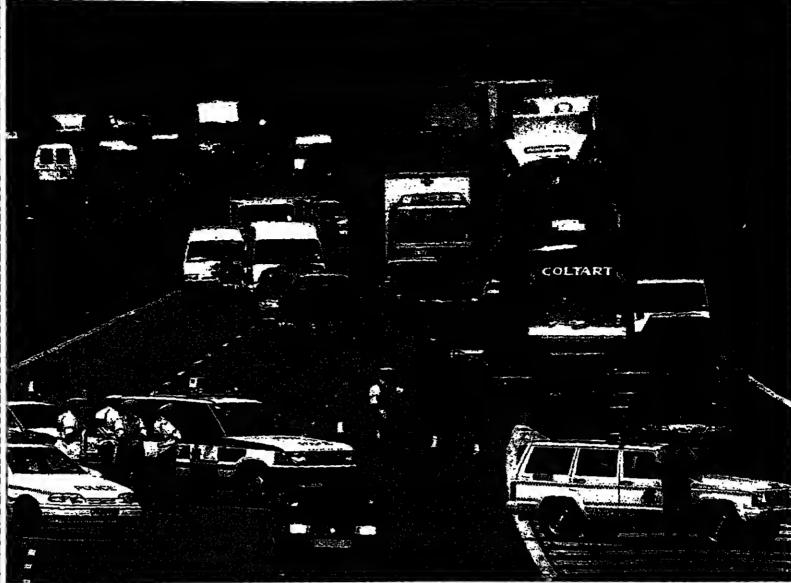
the individuals in question."
Outside court, Mr Fisher's parents said they would take legal advice with a view to suing the health authority. His mother, Margaret, 60, said: "I am just upset that it has taken so long. It has been heartbreaking."

of the Multiple Scierosis Society, said it was an "extraordinary judgment delivered in extraor dinary terms" which attacked the authority for repeatedly finding new reasons not to prescribe the drug. Most health au-thorities in England followed the national guidelines but some, such as Cambridge, Lam-beth, Southwark and Lewisham, did not. "I am sure they will want to look at their policies again," he said. Health authorities in Northern Ireland followed the guidelines but most

in Scotland did not, he added. Beta-interferon was licensed in 1995. Normally health au-thorities are left to decide whether in fund expensive new treatments but, because of the interest in beta-interferoo, the NHS Executive exceptionally issued guidelines saying it should be made available to those capable of beoefiting from it as judged by consultant ocurologists. The drug is only suitable for the 40 per cent of MS sufferers with the relapsing/remitting form of the disease, of whom about 10 per cent are

thought likely to benefit. North Derbyshire health authority yesterday denied it had operated a blanket han on the drug but admitted it had not set aside a specific sum to pay for it. "We did not feel able to give it additional priority because of the limited evidence of its effectiveness available at the

time," a spokeswoman said. The British Medical Association said arbitrary rationing of treatments hased on where patients happened to live was unacceptable and called on the Government to take the lead in



Hold-up: Traffic jams building up at the turnoff to Harlow in Essex on the M11 after the police raid on four cars yesterday. Armed officers from Norfolk and the Metropolitan Police moved in after a lengthy joint investigation Photograph: Brian Harris Norfolk and the Metropolitan Police moved in after a lengthy joint investigation

Cops and robbers chase shuts the M11

Jason Bennetto Crime Correspondent

Four men were arrested and four handguns seized by armed police in an operation yesterday that brought a motorway to standstill for several hours. The police believed they had thwarted an armed robbery planned for

Norwich. The raid on four cars on the M11 took place yesterday morning near Harlow in Essex after a lengthy investigation by the Metropolitan Police's Flying Squad and Norfolk

Constabulary. The police said that no shots were fired and no one was injured in the incident which closed the southbound carriageway of the M11 over a four-mile stretch between its junction with the M25 and

the Harlow turn-off. A spokeswoman from the Metropolitan Police said: "We believe we have thwarted a major armed robbery planned for Norwich." The arrested men, who were being held in custody, were believed to have come from north London.

Tracie 'wanted marriage not murder'

Michael Streeter

Tracie Andrews, accused of hacking her fiancé to death after a row, wanted marriage, not murder, a court was told yesterday. Ronald Thwaites QC, for the defence, also told Birmingham Crown Court, that Ms Andrews, 28, had been unfairly vilified by the media.

"Tracic Andrews did not have a motive for murder—she had a motive for murder—she had a motive for marriage. This is the man she had fixed.

marriage. This is the man she had fixed upon and he upon her to spend the rest of her life with. They had found glam-our with each other, charm with each Peter Cardy, chief executive creating a national framework. other, they wanted each other."

Mr Thwaites said Lee Harvey had age of the case and representations of worn his engagement ring the night he was killed, and Ms Andrews was still the worst examples of "lynch-mob journalism" he had seen. Mr Thwaiten it would be extraordinary for a young woman to covered an experient in the rule with her before a word of her defence had extraordinary for a young woman to spend an evening in the pub with her lover and for it to end in such an "hor-

rendous bloodbath in the road".

Mr Thwaites, presenting the case for the defence, said his client had been effectively "written off" after vindiction any present contract of her agreet tive newspaper reports of her arrest and trial for the alleged roadside murder of Mr Harvey. He said cover-

her before a word of her defence had been heard. "She doesn't claim celebrity for herself; she doesn't seek it. She is a young woman, a single mother, in common with thousands of others."

Ms Andrews, of the Becks, Alvechurch, Worcestershire, denies murdering Mr Harvey, who lived with her, on 1 December.

She says Mr Harvey was stabbed by a passenger in a blue Ford Sierra, and that she was punched in the face, after a road-rage incident at Coopers Hill, Alvechurch.

Mr Thwaites said the prosecution had put forward a case which was "painful in its simplicity", that on the night of the murder a herce and violent argument had started in the couple's car and had ended with Miss Andrews stabbing her fiance more than 30 times until her anger had subsided.

He added: "... the prosecution say that this defendant, Miss Tracie Andrews, had a motive for murder. She

says no - she had a motive for marriage." The senior police officer investigating the death of Harvey admitted that a witness said she heard a car racing away from the murder scene at around the time he was

The

61111

stahbed, a court heard yesterday. But Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston said other witnesses contradicted the woman's account that she heard the high-pitched screeching of a car some time after 10.40pm on the night Mr Harvey was allegedly stahbed to death by Ms Andrews, a former

model. The case continues.





Students forced to live off their parents

Education Editor

Parents are paying out £403m a year to help their children through university, according to a survey released today. The money, averaging £631 a year among those students who receive extra cash, is on top of the parental contribution to the grant made by better-off parents.

News of the increasing parental subsidy to students comes as Sir Ron Dearing's committee is preparing to recommend that free tuition should end, putting even more pressure on pareots to fund their children through higher education.

At present, students and their parents contribute only to living costs through a mixture of grants and loans. More than a third of students - 37 per cent - now cite parents as their main source of income, compared with only a quarter four years

A growing number of students are accepting money from their families as a gift rather than a loan as anxious parents try to ensure their offspring do not leave university burdened with debt: the number owing money to their parents has halved in the last four years.

The annual Barclays Student Survey involved interviews with 1,921 students in 16 English and Welsh universities and was carried out by CEL, an independent research company. Parents appear to support their daughters through college

more than their sons. Forty-two per cent of women students cited their parents as their main source of income, compared with only 32 per cent of men. Students are increasingly accepting debt as a way of life and fewer of them are wor-



The percentage of students con-

per cent over the last five years. Most students expect to be in deht

year. The overall average debt is cerned about debt has fallen by 21 £2,475 at the end of a course; 25 per cent on last year's figure hut a lower increase than in the previous year, at the end of their course - 86 per cent compared with 80 per cent last tributing more.

Students' dependence on government loans has increased as the value of the grant has decreased. This year, nearly two in 10 said it was their main source of income compared with only one in 10 last year.

Despite increasing debts, the proportion of students who work during term time has remained at just under a third. Four in five students work in the summer holidays and more than half are now saving up

earnings from part-time jobs before going on to university. Gordon Rankin, director of per-

sonal banking at Barclays, said: "The oature of student funding has changed dramatically in the six years

Work and play: Rina Patel (left), a student at Nottingham Trent University, supports herself with a part-time job, while Cambridge student Duncan Parrish receives £300 a month from his parents Photographs: Adnan Dennis/ Boumemouth news

that we have been conducting the

"Students are becoming more in-genious and sophisticated at raising

Douglas Trainer, president of the National Union of Students, said: "Many students are only able to survive because of extra assistance from parents, but this can't be the case for all students, especially those from low-income families.

"New suggestions that students should also bear the costs for their tuition are completely crushed hy the survey which shows the extent to which students and pareots pay

out now.' The survey shows that, of students who receive additional voluotary contributions from parents, maths and science studeots receive the most. Social science students had the highest levels of deht at the time of the survey and maths and science stu-

dents the lowest. Fieldwork for the study was completed in May this year. The most popular reason for choosing a course was a liking for the subject. However, students are increasingly taking courses that will help them in the job

market: Students on vocational and applied courses have the highest salary expectations -£14,348 - although in reality they are likely to be paid five

The hard worker: earning success

Rina Patel, Nottingham Trent:

Rina Patel has just finished the third year of a four-year course in Interior Architecture and Design at Nottingham Trent University. Rina, 22, is also regularly working weekends at a mother and childrenswear store. "They operate a nil-hour contract; you're not contracted for any number of hours. They simply ring up and ask if you can work specific times. I mostly work Sundays, but in busy periods, like the run-ur done whole weekends. If I need extra money, I sometimes work evenings too."

The store pays £3.85 an hour, though this doubles on Sundays. Rina usually works for fuur or five hours at a stretch; "Mostly it doesn't affect university work because it's only weekends. If I have a hig project I do

Rina is on a full grant, which covers the rent - about £45 - week, hut not much more. Her parents send her a little money, but it is only the job that gives her enough to live on. Her main extra expenditure is on course projects which cost between £15 and £20 a week. "The materials and pens cost quite a hit. But, hasically, the more money you throw at the projects, the hetter the marks for your models." She allocates her carned money to these. "If I didn't have my work money to spend, then the other money in my account would just end up going on the projects," she says. Rina believes if this were the case, she wouldn't have enough money to live on.

Many of her friends work to support themselves, often in local pubs or bars. However, she prefers her job because she "gets to hang around with these great married women and chat to them about food, small children and chicken pox". However, Rina says has she done her best not to let her college friends visit her at work: "My uniform is so awful. I have to wear dungarees, a yellow stripey shirt and a hright red bow-tie."

life: subsidised by family

The easy

Duncan Parrish, Cambridge:

Duncan Parrish is one of the lucky ones. He's at Clare College, Cambridge, at the end of his second year reading hiology. Apart from during his gap year, he's never had any full- or part-time work. His parents give him "a monthly allowance, £300, which isn't huge, hut is perfectly adequate".

His case is unusual. His father is a naval attaché in Moscow, and so his parents live ntoad. He and his brother live at home ii Surrey through the vacations. During termtime, he lives in hall. One of the advantages of Camhridge is that "the rent's ridiculously low; only about £265 a term", while terms are

usually 10 weeks long.
Students at Cambridge aren't allowed to work during term time, but Duncan is not planning to work over the summer either. He has taken out a full student loan of £1,500 and this is largely to help him out while he writes. "I'm spending the summer writing a play; I've shown some of my stuff to publishers who are interested. Most of my friends don't work over the Easter or Christmas holidays, but do have jobs over the summer."

Yesterday, he was at a conference of young Labour student representatives in Bournemouth. "Obviously I've got some friends who have never done a day's work in their lives," he says. "I could give you loads of

names, but perhaps that's just Oxbridge." A Cambridge Union spokesman said that Duncan's situation was "very unusual" and that most students at Cambridge were struggling.

However, Duncan does not feel too ohligated to his parents. "I've always been reasonably independent. If I had to start with nothing tomorrow, I know I could go out and get a joh. My parents are supporting me at the moment. I don't have any problems with that. I'll do the same for my kids and I'm glad I'm not sponging off the state."

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Teachers seek more time for 'magic moments'

Lucy Ward Education Correspondent

Teachers want more time on the timetable for "magic moments" with pupils to put the fun back into learning.
The National Union of

Teachers yesterday called for an immediate review of the primary school curriculum to make room for "spontaneous activi-

Relaxing requirements to teach subjects such as geogra-phy and history could also be used for the three Rs and for lessons in moral development and citizenship, according to teachers interviewed in a study carried out for the NUT by Leicester University.

One teacher said: "We never have time to listen when children come in with 'I did this' or 'Here's my book' or 'I found this twig on the way to school.

"It is very hard to make them know that these things are important to us as well.

The Government's literacy and numeracy targets for 2002 would be threatened unless schools had more flexibility in planning the timetable, the

The university's study found that, on average, primary schools were already exceeding the hour a day ministers say should be spent on literacy and using up the hour recommended for numeracy.

More flexibility in the national curriculum would allow schools to spend longer on the basies while more moral and social education would encourage discipline.

Teachers also felt that children were missing out on some of the fun of learning because of the rigidity of the curriculum.

sessions such as "circle time" in which children sit round and are encouraged to talk to each other about, perhaps, a cuddly toy being passed round. A so-called "discretionary

day" each week, supposedly freed up by Sir Ron Dearing in the first slimming of the cur-riculum in 1994, had been largely swallowed up in covering the curriculum and providing more time for literacy and oumeracy, headteachers said.

NUT general secretary Doug McAvov said: "The report identities the denial of opportunity for teachers to huild on the spontaneous interests of their pupils and highlights the slifling effects of the curriculum."

A Department for Education and Employment spokesman said ministers had heeded teachers' calls for stability and had promised not to change the They wanted more time for curriculum before 2000.

Delay over 'right to know' Bill provokes anger

Political Correspondent

Plans for a White Paper on freedom of information have been

delayed amid wrangling about its content, it emerged yesterday. But while campaigners claimed that civil servants were trying to water down the measure, government sources maintained that there were simply a few problems in defining who

should be covered by it. There was further protest yesterday after it emerged that ministers were planning to make their legislation enforceable through a parliamentary committee rather than through the courts or an information commissioner.

The Government had promised to deliver its White Paper before MPs left for their long summer holidays at the end of this month. However, it now seems that it is unlikely to be published before October.

Yesterday, Andrew Puddephatt, director of the constitutional reform group Charter 88, said he understood that the measure had been delayed because civil servants wanted to include a catch-all exemption which would allow them to withhold information. The clause would mirror one on "good government" in the existing Open Government Code of Practice, which exempts information "whose disclosure would harm of the operations of a department

or other public body". Mr Puddephatt said the delay was being caused by "substantial Civil Service opposition". country back freedom of information, and there is clear gov-protest to Dr Clark.

Humphrey is alive and well," he said, referring to the archetypal civil servant in the BBC's les, Minister series.

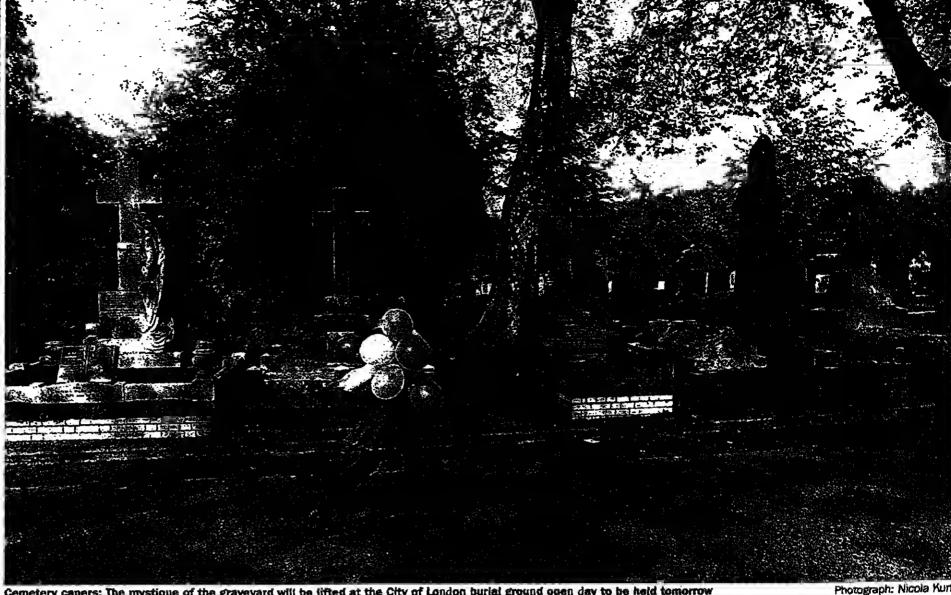
Donald Dewar, speaking a a Charter 88 convention on the constitution in London, denied the charges and said the Government was determined to press ahead with the measure.

"I suspect if Sir Humphrey exists he has probably retired into a rest home for the bewildered, given the pressure of change. We obviously want to get the measure right but the commitment is there and it is strong," he said.

The Cabinet Office said there were complications in defining some of the organisations where the open-government rules would apply, and other government sources said the most important thing was getting the measure right.

In a separate development the Duchy of Lancaster, David Clark, said he expected the legislation, due next year, to be enforced through a parliamentary committee rather than through the courts or an information commissioner. The parliamentary ombudsman and his select committee could be made responsible, he said in an interview ith Stakeholder magazine.

Maurice Frankel, director of the Campaign for Freedom of the proper and efficient conduct Information, said such a move would be totally unacceptable. "At the end of the day a legally enforceable right is in our view essential. We would be deeply concerned if the appli-"Three out of four people in this — cant was ultimately defined such



Cemetery capers: The mystique of the graveyard will be lifted at the City of London burial ground open day to be held tomorrow

Open house among the tombstones shows that cemeteries are not always so grave

Stephen Goodwin Heritage Correspondent

Thousands of east Londoners will give Southend and the Lakeside shopping centre a miss tomorrow in favour of an outing among the headstones and Gothic funereal architecture of the City of London Cemetery in Wanstead

Grave diggers will demonstrate their craft, parties will be shown into the crematorium furnace and, weather permitting, families will picnic on the lawns of one of the capital's most

cemetery sound macabre. But at the souls laid to rest there. Up to 10,000 vis-City of London they see it as an educational mission, an opportunity to dispel some of the myths and mysteries of burial and cremation at a time when

people are not grieving.

Lynn Heath, the cemetery's projects manager said: "Death of a loved one is something we all have to come to terms with eventually. If we understand the funeral process, then hopefully we are going to cope with the situation better when we have to face it."

Run by the Corporation of London, the 150-year old cemetery is set in 200

itors are expected tomorrow, the fourth annual open-day. East Londoners have a tradition of giving their dead a classy send-off and on parade at the exhibitions by undertakers will be the topnotch black horses and glass-sided.

carriages used several times a week. Exhibitors are strictly forbidden from selling services or touting for business. "There is a fine line between something which is dignified and something crass or tacky," observed Mrs Heath. "An event such as this has to be done with taste." That means no

Cremation has attracted a grisly stock of myths, including taking bodies out of coffins, collecting gold teeth; and no certainty that the ashes are the right ones. To counter such tales, visitors are given a guided tour of the

Tomorrow, for the first time, there will be a multi-faith memorial service with contributions from Sikhs, Jews and . Hindus as well as from Roman - year. Catholics and Anglicans. Tours of the cemetery will focus on its rich flora and fauna - 168 species of wildflowers and 55 bird species have been identified -

the British way of death and on the early history of cometeries, with tales of autocratic vicars and drunken body snatchets.

The first burial at the Corporation's out-of-town cemetery was in June 1856, three years after church grave-yards in the City were condemned as unfit. Currently there are some 1,300 burials and 4,500 cremations each

However the Gothic-style catacombs proved unpopular. Of the original 275 cells, into which coffins are placed, only 98 were sold in 130 years structure have been converted into a



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Fight to save studio where Pavlova danced

famous homes is being put up for sale by a university. Middlesex University hopes to get 1.6m from the sale of a house once owned by

the ballerina Anna Pavlova. The house in Golders Green, north london has been be home of the University's drama department since 1975. Set in listed gardens. designed by Percy Laoc, the estate includes two purpose built theatres.

The house itself includes Pavlova's original dance tudio and mirror. Middlesex University claims the sale is so it can ceotralise its drama department at Trent Park io Cockfosters. Bot campaigners bring in much needed cash. The Save Loodoo's Theatre campaign said a sell-off would be a great poblic loss

raise money by hiring out the house and its grounds. The estate is likely to attract o huge amount of interest. Nijiosky and Charlie

performers who staved there

Chaplio are among

Anna Paviova, who died in The Hague in 1931, is regarded by many as the greatest hallering the world has known. Her remains remelery in north west London, though she reportedly made a dying wish to be returned to ber beloved Russia" upon the fall of Commooism.

Born in 1881, the Russiao quickly emerged as the most celebrated dancer of her time Among her many claims to lasting fame was giving her onme to paviova, a marshmallow and meringue confection topped with whipped cream.

Blair: no stalling on party reform

Fran Abrams Political Correspondent

Tony Blair is to confront trade union and left-wing activists at changes likely to remove cabi-this autumn's Labour Party net ministers and left-wing MPs conference over the next phase of his modernisation project. In ecutive Committee. A Downing a step described by one Downing Street source as "no risk, no that the policy forums would be un", he plans to push through reforms designed to remove ence had approved the plans.

power from his party's left wing. The Prime Minister will tell party members today that there will be no compromise over moves to remove power from left-wing activists.

There is no watering down, no going back," Mr Blair will tell Labour's women and youth conference in Bournemouth. "We must keep modernising. It was courage that brought us vic-tory on May 1, and it will deliver us the victories of the future."

Unions which had been ocgotiating over possible modifi-cations to the plans were taken by surprise last night. They had been told the Labour leadership would make coocessions in order to avoid a conflict at the Brighton conference.

At least a third of coostitue ocy parties had asked for a year's delay to the "Labour into Power" project, which includes the ending of the right to put motions to conference. Motions hostile to the plan at this year's conference outnumber supportive ones by 10 to one - eveo the Labour Students, usually supportive of Tony Blair. called for postpooement.
The proposals in the "Labour

into Power" document include the setting-up of regional policy forums to formulate ideas, reforms to conference and Street spokesman said last night set up even before the confer Mr Blair will tell today's con-

ference that modernisation must continue.

"Modernisation didn't stop on May 1. We won because we are new Labour. We will win again provided we remain oew Labour," he will say.

The final report oo the proposals will be discussed by the NEC at the end of this month, but sources said last night that it would oot be significantly different from the draft produced in February for consultation.

Union spokesmen said they had not been told of the change of heart, and speculated that there would be deep unhappiness over Mr Blair's state-

Labour backbencher Diane Abbott yesterday blamed "the intolerance of independent thought" of the Labour lead-ership after being removed. from the influential lieasury Select Committee.

In a rare public outburst against Tony Blair by a Labour MP, close friends of the Hackney North and Stoke Newingtoo MP accused spin doctors of trying to impose a "Stalinist"

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Shyness experts keep coyly quiet

Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

The first-ever cooference oo shyness is to be held in Britain oext week - but organisers are coy about what will be going on.

They were initially reluctant to advertise and are not seoding out press releases. But yesterday Dr Ray Crozier, the conference chief, said. There has been increasing interest in the topic but there has never been the right opportunity to get logether ... There has not been a real community of schools investigating shyness so it is timely to have a meeting."

The conference, organised in Cardiff by the Welsh branch of the British Psychological Society, will only be a cosy gathering of about 75 - a much smaller affair than the other conferences of the society, which can attract up to 1,000 delegates.

Psychologists and psychia-trists from the UK, the USA, Canada, Japan and Australia will be attending. Those who specialise in social phobia, shame and selective mutism

will be able to speak to each other for the first time." Dr Crozier said. "It is a great opportunity".

More than 40 papers will be given on the theme of social phobia, a mild form of which is said to affect up to a third of the population and a severe form one in 10.

The keynote speech will be given by Philip Zimbardo, from the USA, who pioneered research into Shyness and helped set up the Shyness Institute io California, where people can be treated for their problems.

Professor Zimbardo will be talking on the subject of "social fitness training". He will be emphasising "ongoing social fitness workouts, just like physical fitness workouts, to get in 'social shape' and maintain social fitness".

Other papers will investigate the differences between shame and humiliation, children's understanding of being embarrassed by others' actions and anxiety levels among papils transferring from primary to secondary schools.

An important message to all our customers.

Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th July

We are making every effort to return to normal service this weekend following the period of industrial action.

We are happy to confirm that the following services will be operating as normal:

- All flights to and from regional airports Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh & Glasgow (though some to and from London Heathrow may be affected).
- All domestic & European flights to and from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

4	The following f	ranchise & Alli	ance operated me		BA8700-8839
	BA998-999 BA3000-3499 BA4000-4199	BA4600-4999 BA6200-6449 BA6700-6749	BA6800-6999 BA7400-7499 BA7600-7949	BA8000-8199 BA8200-8299 BA8300-8450	BA8840-8899

• All intercontinental flights to and from London Heathrow and London Gatwick except those listed below:

Kuala Lumpur & Seoul BA41/BA42 Colombo BA2137/BA2136 Jakarta BA33/BA34 Nagoya BA21/BA22 New York (JFK) BA2173/BA2172 Cairo BA155/BA154 Montreal BA95/BA94 Baku BA2029/BA2028 New York (Newark) BA185/BA184 Madras BA35/BA36 New York (JFK) BA113/BA116 Dhahran BA129/BA128 BA117/BA112 Kuwait BA157/BA156 BA117/BA112 Kuwait BA157/BA156 Cape Town BA59/BA58 Peking BA39/BA38 Jeddah BA133/BA132 Larnaca & Tehran BA103/BA102 Domestic and European flights to and from London Heathrow Whilst we are making every endeavour to operate as many services as possible, we regret that some flights remain		ept those liste	<u> </u>	1.	London Gatw	<u>ick</u>
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Tehran BA105/BA102	Cape Town Jeddah	BA59/BA58	_	BA39/BA38		
	Tohran	BA103/BA102		Landon Hoathrow:		

For further details of flights operating this weekend and early next week, either:

- 1. contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop
- 2. look on ITV Teletext p.380 & p.381
- 3. visit our website at www.british-airways.com/strike
- 4. or call our information line 0800 727 800.

Again, we would like to offer our sincerest apologies to any customers who are being inconvenienced by the industrial action. Rest assured that we are continuing to do all we can to keep disruption to a minimum. If your flight is affected, we will endeavour to organise alternative travel arrangements for you to reach your destination.

BRITISH AIRWAYS

Tour de France: It whizzes by in 20 seconds, but they'll talk about it for 20 years





We bowled at 60mpb along straight, narrow, empty roads, bedged by tens of thousands of contented, munching people.

Picture a garden-party 10 yards wide and 130 miles long, stretching across part of Normandy and the breadth of Brittany.

Each village was a festival of drinking and sausage-grilling. Each farmyard had a makeshift table for a score of people, loaded with food

Children, in school groups, lined the road, screeching with joy. The en-tire population of old people's homes sat grinning in rows in their wheelchairs, covered in blankets despite the scorching sunshine. They were waiting for hours, in

great patience and great reverence, for 190 of the fittest young men in the world to hum past like a swarm of candy-coloured bees.

As the local oewspaper, Ouest-France, said: "The Tour de France lasts twenty seconds but people talk about it for 20 years."

La France Profonde basks in reflected glory of kings of the road

the Tour for a day. Admittedly, I was riding, and

drinking cola, in a bright orange mini-truck belonging to the Ministry of Equipment, Transport, Housing We were the lead vehicle in a pro-

cession 400 cars, 190 bicycles, 3,000 people, 60 miles and 90 minutes long. In the front passenger seat was Jean-François Inizan, who was the ministry's "Monsieur Route", or Mr Road, for that day's stage.

invisible hazard for the bikes?

Riding in the lead vehicle in the procession gave an unparalleled opportunity to observe the French - the portunity to observe the French-the. Donald Duck and Goofy bad halt-national sport, people do not have ting fitter and faster. Did they real-comfortable in his mock-medieval to travel to the Tour de France. It ly want to cycle down autorootes? comfortable in his mock-medieval to travel to the Tour de France. It

I had the great honour to ride in masse. French exceptionalism, in terms of casual dress, is clearly dead. A random sample of this crowd, young and old, would not have been out of place in a shopping-mall in Essex or New Jersey. In a 130-mile incision across La Prance Profonde, I spotted only three berets. The baseball cap has conquered

At one point, we were overtaken by elements of the high-speed carnival which precedes the race itself, distributing plastic and teeth-rotting Monsieur Route's job was to are spect the readiness of the road. Was there too much gravel oo that bend? Were the patches of oew tarbend? Were the patches of oew tarbend.

bert and several large coffee-cups. We turned a corner and screeched to a halt. A mobile Mickey Mouse, Donald Duck and Goofy bad halt-

in the crowd. The drivers were peeing, in formation, beside their vehicles. Prance is an ethnically disparate and very large country, bound together by language, flag, bureaucracy and, for three weeks every July, by the Tour de France.

Yannik Le Dû, from the ministry in Paris, squashed into the back of the truck, marvelled at the crowds. Just look at all the kids. This is what the Tour de France is about. It engraves itself in the memory of the nation from a very early age. It's not just a race; it is rooted in the country itself, it is part of our identity ...

During its anti-clockwise circuit of the country, the Tour is watched by one in six of the French population, an estimated 10 million people, more than any other sporting event.
Unlike any other front-line, interproblem was that the riders were get-

travels to them. If they are lucky, and patient, it comes, literally, down their way. Hence the celebrations we saw all along the route, it was as if one rally of a Wimbledon final was being played on the village tennis-

Despite the inevitable conversion of the Tour into a commercial and media circus, it has managed to maintain its close cootact with the

Sometimes, too close. A spectator stepped in froot of the two leading riders on one stage this week. All three ended up in hospital. There were three serious spills in the first few days, causing some riders to question the sense of taking the Tour through narrows roads and village

The suspicion remains that the annually changing route is increasing-ly contorted by oon-sporting considerations. Towns and villages lobby and wheedle and pay large sums of money to be the point of departure, or arrival of a daily stage. Vire, in Calvados, a town of 10,000 noted for its fine andouille sausages.

just the official fee. Improvements to roads and other facilities, demanded by the Tour organisers, had cost the little town another £20m.

was the starting point that day. It had

paid £70,000 to be on the Tour for

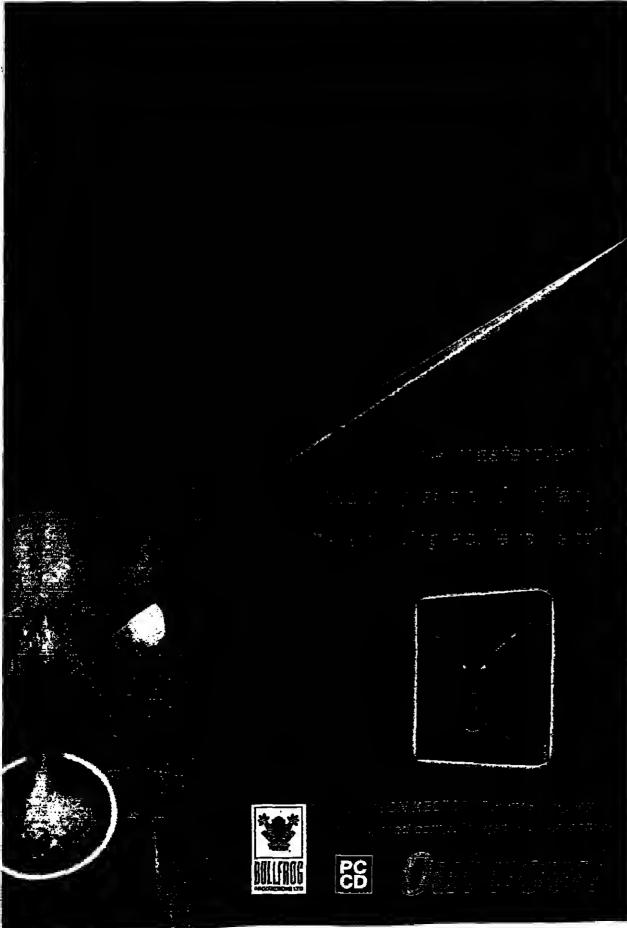
the first time in 58 years. But this was

Before the start, at the Tour's mobile village, I came across René Courastin, treasurer of the Brotherhood of the True Andonille Sausage of Vire, looking rather uncomfortable in his mock-medieval

money but it is worth it in the end," he said. "The whole of France is watching Vire on TV today. The next time they are in this part of the country, they will come to Vire. Before they might bave driven past ... Now we are the town that was in the Tour

de France By the time that we arrived in Plumelee, in southern Brittany, I was exhausted. The 3,000 people in the procession had been doing this for four days; they had another 18 days to the finish on the Champs Elysees. If you insist on doing it by bicycle, the Tour de France is the most demanding sporting event known to Man, something like running a marathon every day for three weeks. But, in truth, the Tour is a formidable test of stamina for everyone involved. Imagine driving 2,500 miles from Rough to Paris, by way of the Pyreoees and the Alps, at the wheel of a giant strawberry.

Race report, page 24





Troops gear up for Bosnia arrests

We know this

Christopher Bellamy and Marcus Tanner

British troops are reported to he strengthening the helicopter landing site at Bihac in northwest Bosnia to take Black Hawk helicopters like those used in Thursday's operation to seize two Bosnian Serbs indicted for war crimes. The move suggests more such operations in northwest Bosnia may he imminent.

As speculation grew that S-For peacekeepers were about to arrest the biggest fish -Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic - military sources stressed the special nature of Thursday's operation to catch Simo Drijaca and Milan Kovacevic. These guys were mov-ing around completely openly in the British sector."

Mludic and Karadzic are believed to be near Pale, east of Sarajevo, in the French sector. "It's a very difficult, very dif-

Thursday) was a sealed indictment, so we could pick the best time to get them.

No one except for Louise Ar-UN war crimes in the Hague tribunal knows the exact oumber of suspects on the sealed list.

"It is thought there were nine - of which three have been enforced," said Chris Bennett, of the International Crisis Group, in Sarajevo. "So, there

are six to go."
The first sealed indictmeor was for Slavko Dokmanovic, the Serb mayor of Vukovar in Croaoa who was arrested by the UN on 27 June. Thursday saw British troops snatch Kovacevic and Drijaca, who was killed when he opened fire.

Heading the list of the "six to go" are almost certainly Zeljko Raznjatovic "Arkan", the Bel- of whom 66 are at large, is oo grade-hased paramilitary chief mystery. "The worst atrocities

ferent operation, a senior who "cleansed" Bijeljina in British officer said. "The key to north-east Bosnia in April 1992. and Velibor Ostojic, a close colleague of former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who organised the cleansing of Foca, bour, the chief prosecutor of in eastern Bosnia, a few weeks later. Ostojic is deputy prime minister of the Republika Srp-

ska, the Bosnian Serb state.

Sources in Bosnia believe one surprise factor will be the presence of Muslims and Croats on the sealed list, most probably Ramiz Delalic "Celo", the muslim hoodlum accused of killing oumbers of Serb civilians while organising the defence of Sarajevo, and Mladen Naletilic and Vinko Martinovic, two Bosnian Croats who "cleansed" Mostar, in southern Bosnia, of

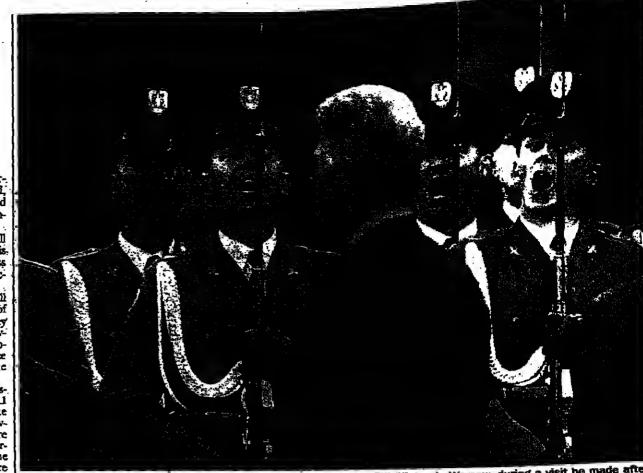
its Muslims.
Why high-ranking well known suspect killers were left off the UN-published list of 74,

took place in the towns of Br-cko, Srehrenica, Visegrad, Zvornik and Brieffina," seid Srdjan Dizdarevic of the Helsinki Committee in Sarajevo:

"Some of these towns are still in Republika Srpska, so there is. no one to dig up the mass graves and see how many victims there were."

Mr Dizdarevic fears there will be no move to seize suspects of higher rank than Drijaca. "They don't want to go up to the lev-el of [Serbian President Slobo-dan] Milosevic. It was the price of getting them to sign the Dayton agreement."
Amnesty International yes-

terday warned that with only 11 months before S-For mandate in Bosnia expires, the hig pow-ers need to act fast: There needs to be more than one arrest a week to ensure merely the current publicised indictees are in custody by the end of the S-



Man and the arms: Honour guards shout as they salute President Bill Clinton in Warsaw, during a visit he made after the Madrid summit – at which Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic were invited to join Nato Photograph: Reuters

significant shorts

Commonwealth puts Sierra Leone on hold

The Commonwealth yesterday suspended Sierra Leone from its membership of the organisation in response to the military coup in May. Nigerian membership had already been suspended, after the execution of Ken Saro-Wiwa and others in 1995. Io Sierra Leone's case, the suspension applies only to a government which is in any case not recognised. Its ousted government could therefore still be allowed a seat at Commoowealth meetings. The decision was announced at the end of a meeting of the Commonwealth ministerial action group in London, which had heard from a series of opposition and rights groups on Nigeria.

Steve Crawshaw rights groups on Nigeria.

Spanish fury over Eta kidnap

Town ceores throughout Spain came to a halt at midday yesterday as hundreds of thousands of people, wearing anti-Eta ribbons, protested at the kidnapping of a Basque conservative councillor oo Thursday. Eta threatens to kill Miguel Angel Blanco, 29, by 4pm today unless the government regroups 500 Eta prisoners, dispersed throughout Spain, nearer their homes in the Basque country. The Prime Minister, José Maria Aznar, is 10 head an all-party demonstration in Bilbao today, not far from the town of Ermua, where Mr Blanco is a Popular Party councillor.

Elizabeth Nash - Madrid

Troops to patrol in Naples

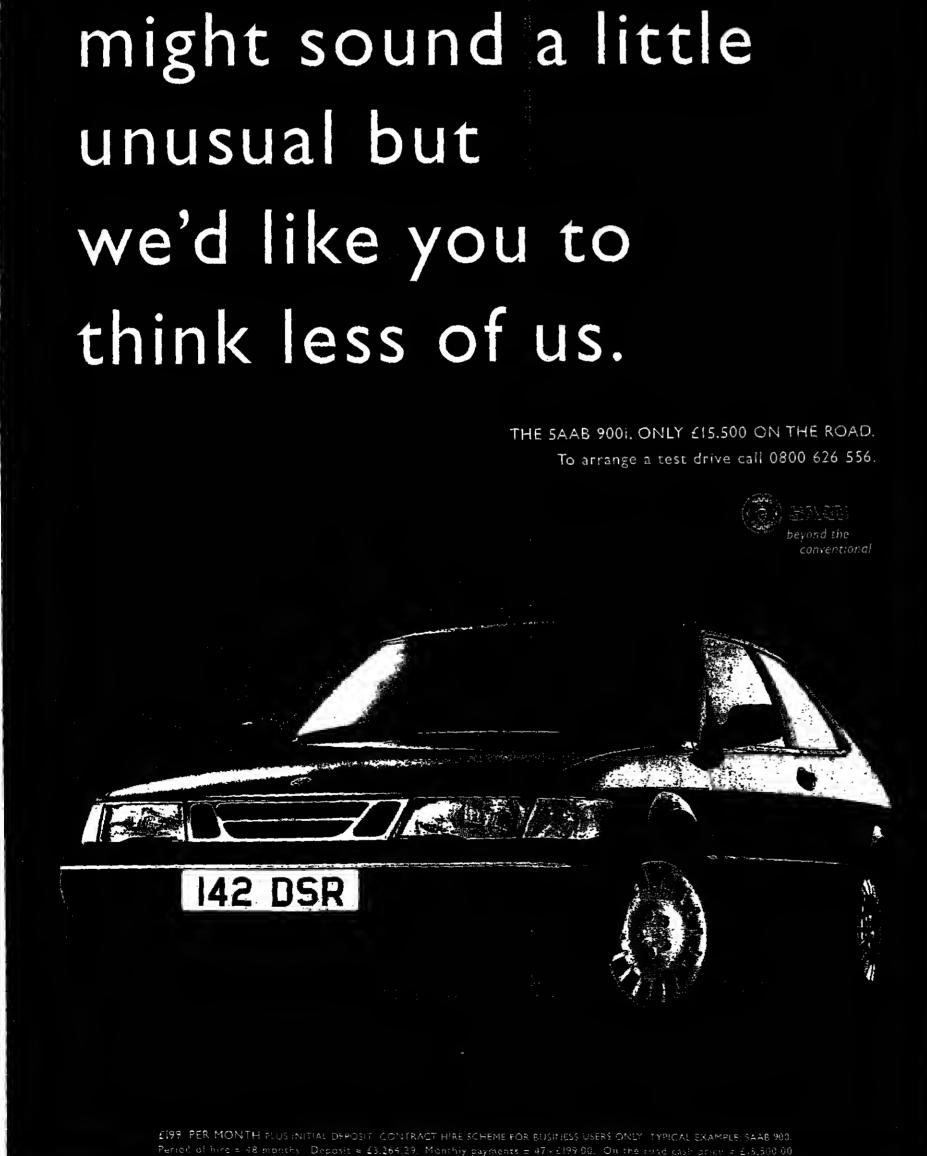
Italy approved deployment of 500 troops to Naples to help police crack down on gangates plaguing the city with turf wars. The soldiers will take over guard duties around Naples so that police states can focus on halting a wave of mob violence that has swept the city, the Interior Minister. Giorgio Napolitano, said after a Cabinet meeting approved the plan.

Reuters - Rome

Hope for Bougainville deal

New Zealand gave a positive progress report from the first week of peace talks it is hosting for rival factions in a nine-year secessionist war on Papua New Guinea's Bougainville Island.

Reuters - Christchurch



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Minister of slurs gets off the hook

Imre Karacs

The Austrian Foreign Minister, who insulted a handful of world leaders before hreakfast, escaped censure yesterday when the Parliameot in Vienna decided that his behaviour had in no way besmirched the country's reputation.

Wolfgang Schüssel, the undiplomatic leader of Austrian diplomacy. mustered the government's in-built majority to reject a motion of no confideoce tabled by three opposition parties which had questioned the minister's fitness to represent the

The more serious question of vary. The "wally" referred to might whether he lied to the public is yet have been a Swede or a Dane, and The more serious question of

to be resolved, however. Mr Schüs- there is also something of a cootrosel is alleged to have made his careless remarks while attending the European Unioo summit in Ams-

terdam last mooth. During an early-morning meeting with a select group of journalists, he heaped scorn on foreign dignitaries, trusting that the exchange would remain off the record.

Thus Hans Tietmeyer, the president of the Bundesbank, became a "real pig", a Scandinavian prime minister a "wally", and Edith Cresson, former French prime minister and EU commissioner, an "old bag".

No minutes exist of his outpourings, and accounts of his tour de force

versy over the "real" epithet preceding Mr Tietmeyer's description. Everyone present seems to agree,

however, that Mr Schüssel reserved the worst of his hile for the Bundesbank president. Mr Tietmeyer had just emerged victorious from his battle with the German Finance Minister, Theo Waigel, over the German central bank's gold reserves. The Austrian government, or at least its conservative wing, headed by Mr Schüssel, had evidently backed the loser.

That was the first mistake, but a minor one in comparison to what was to follow. A wiser politician than Mr

antagonism to one of the most pow-erful men in Europe. And to compound the offence by calling him unflattering names was not entirely statesmanlike.

And so Mr Schüssel was forced to trot to Frankfurt in a horry, for a "man-to-man" talk with a pig - real or otherwise. Sadly, no account exists of this meeting either, only vivid descriptions of imaginary scenes, with the Foreign Minister in the foreground lying prostrate on the Bundesbank's floor.

Whatever happened, it is safe to assume that a fair amount of grovelling was involved. Suffice to recall that Austria's currency is pegged so Schüssel might have kept quiet close to the Deutschmark that its val-about that, instead of trumpeting his ue and rates of interest are in effect close to the Deutschmark that its val-

steered from Frankfurt, Whether Mr Tietmeyer was placated only time and the future movements of the Schilling will tell. It is a pity though that Mr Schüssel did not follow up the gesture with similar pilgrimages to Paris, Washington and the relevant Scandinavian capital. Sadder still, it is a shame that instead of an apology, he spue a flimsy web of false-

For it is not so much what Mr Schüssel had said, but his elaborate denials afterwards, that led to yesterday's votc. He had never had that meeting with journalists, he claimed, and weot oo to accuse the German magazine Focus, which broke the sto-

hoods to cover up his offeoce.

ry, of malicious slander.
The other journalists present at

the same briefing confirmed the Focus story however, and proceeded to dredge up Schüsselisms of old from previous encuunters.

The Foreign Minister is thus credited with the description "an ageing Bette Davis" for Madeleine Al-bright, the US Secretary of State. And President Alexander Lukashenko of Belarus is reported to rejoice under the nickname "that

As to the official account of the Amsterdam con-meeting, the editor of the respected Salzhurger Nachrichten, whose reporter claims to have been present, had the following to say: "Wolfgang Schüssel is

It cao be argued, as it was, force-

fully, in yesterday's debate, that Mr Schussel is a PR disaster on the scale of the Waldheim controversy.

But Austria will not be rid of him. because the People's Party he leads keeps the Socialist-conservative coalition in power. Should Mr Schussel be kicked out, the government would collapse, and the extremist Jorg Haider could no longer be kept away from the trough.

Mr Haider, heading the country's second higgest party, might not enhance Austria's international standing either, though at least he could be trusted not say unpleasant things about German leaders,

He is on record expressing admiration for the economic policies uf

Secret of Lord of the Skies' killer goes to the grave

At Amado Carillo Fuentes' wake, everyone was speculating: did narcotics agents eliminate him or was it his rivals? Latin America Correspondent

Who killed the Lord of the Skies?" Did US anti-narcotics agents discreetly eliminate their he was undergoing plastic surgery in a Mexico City hospital? In scenes reminiscent of The Godfather, Mexican mourners paid their last respects yesterday to South America's leading drug lord, Amado Carrillo Fuentes, nicknamed for his use of converted passenger aircraft to fly cocaine from Colombia to Mex-

ico before smuggling it across the

1.665

Medellin cartel's Pablo Escobar, as well as Colombia's other public enemy oumber one while major cartel in Cali, as the biggest shipper of cocaine to American cities, making an estimated \$100m (£60m) a month and paying off thousands of local, state and federal government officials to get his shipments through.

Most of the mourners who arrived in Guamuchilito, his home village on Mexico's Pacific coast, in luxury vehicles with tinted windows and without number border into the United States. plates were asking the same US agents, or at least Mexican by a lethal injection, or an al- He and two of the Mexican doc- sure there's a special place in mother's ranch. Some appeared The 42-year-old Mexican peas- questions: how did he die? Did agents under US direction. The mohadazo, suffocation by a pil- tors were apparently brought to hell for those like him who have to be drug lords, dressed in the drug lord escaped.

ants' son had taken over from the rival drug lords "ruh him out" or were the gringos involved possibly by infiltrating his bodyguards? Whatever the case, US agents predict a violent turf war hetween his Juarez Cartel, now likely to be beaded by his 34year-old brother, Vicente, and rival gangs io Tijuana an the Mexican Gulf coast

The fact that he was mysteriously found dead on the Fourth of July, the Americans' Independence Day holiday, was seen by some as pointing the finger at

US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) said it believed the official Mexican version that Carrillo Fuentes had died of a heart attack around 4am on 4 July in Mexico City's private Santa Monica hospital after undergoing liposuction and plastic surgery to alter his appearance. The Mexican television net-

work Televisa, closest to the government, cited sources at the hospital as saying the drug lord, whose net worth was estimated at \$25bn, may have been killed

low held over him by a body-guard. The Mexican daily, La Jornada, said a "hit" ordered by USDEA agents was one of the most likely theories, choosing 4 July as a strong hint to other fugitive drug lords. DEA officials denied involvement.

Mexican officials were also questioning three doctors who had performed the plastic surgery and are now under police protection fearing for their lives. A fourth, Brazilian doctor reportedly fled back to Brazil.

NORTHERN ROCK

the hospital by the drug lord, who took over an entire floor and a maternity wing and posted bodyguards with automatic

weapons around his room. Adding to suspicions of US involvement was the fact that the DEA chief, Thomas Constantine, was among the first to say, oo 6 July, that he believed the man who died in the hospital, although listed Antonio Flores Montes, was Carrillo Fuentes. "He may have escaped earthly justice, but I'm

destroyed countless human lives," Mr Constantine said. The DEA confirmed the identification two days later, on 8 July, citing fingerprint evidence, while Mexico's Attorney-General's office said it was still not sure until Thursday when it

firmed it was the cocaine baron. Meanwhile, in Guamuchilito. dozens of Mexican troops searched mourners leaving his wake for weapons yesterday be-fore a private family burial at his

said that DNA evidence con-

snakeskin cowboy boots and stetsons. Others were local farmers who insisted Carrillo Fuentes was a good man, a kind of Robin Hood, who had built a school, a church and volleyball court and who had helped them out when they needed money.

Earlier, the family had allowed journalists into the ranch, making no bones about the fact the journalists were being used as human shields in case of an army raid. Relatives recalled the last time Carrillo Fuentes was at the ranch, in January, for the wedding of his younger sister. Aurora. The army launched a massive raid on the weddin



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Saddam's athletes tripped up at visa hurdle

Robert Fisk Masnaa, on the Lebanese-Syrian border

On the front of their bus, next to a photograph of Saddam Hussem wearing a stylish Bavar-ian hat, a handwritten notice declared the visitors to be "the élite of the Iraqi soccer team". The second bus, filled with Iraqi shot-putters, weightlifters and runners, bore a more peculiar portrait of the leader of the Arab Socialist Baath Party of Iraq: Saddam in a turban, inspecting a pot of meat oo a domestic cooking stove while dropping in for a chat with local Baghdad residents.

The Lebanese, however, did not take so kindly to the 97 Iraqi athletes in their blue tracksuits who dropped in to visit them yesterday. For after trav-elling for three days across the Iragi and Syrian deserts to participate in Beirut's pan-Arab games, the sportsmen and women of Baghdad, Kirkuk and Basra were met by that most familiar of all pan-Arab

one of them muttered to me darkly. This is a game. Indeed it was. And Kuwait and Saudi Arabia were winning - though Syria, Turkey, Israel, even the United States had their indirect role to play in the plight of the Iraqis marooned beside the frootier rubbish-tip at Masnaa. Surrounded by old tyres,

rusting Pepsi cans and crushed cigarette packets, they prayed towards Mecca on their little rugs, or sat perspiring in their buses or paraded before the local television cameras in their tracksuits, brandishing the redwhite-and-black Iraqi flag. But no way would the Lebanese frontier guards open the road to Beirut and the shiny new sports stadium where Presi-dent Elias Hrawi of Lebanon will today launch the pan-Arab

Dr Mohamed Ridha, the Iraqi track coach (educated University of Colorado) asked why the Arab League had invited his team to the games without ensuring visas for them at the border. "Lebanon should



we want to show you our hospitality," be complained. "You know, it's not good to leave all these nice athletes under the sun here, without water, without anything. It's very miserable.

The problem, of course, is that just seven years ago, the Iraqis turned up unexpectedly on another border in rather larger numbers. And wheo Kuwait decided that it was not Saddam's bome, the Iraqi army invaded the emirate which now - liberated by America and its say 'our country is your home allies but still furious at Iraq's

failure to return 600 missing citizens - bas no intention of running, jumping or even standing still beside its former tormentors, especially in a stadium partly built with Kuwaiti money. Saodi Arabia, which footed another sixth of the bill, felt the same way about it.

Not that the athletes looked very threatening. Dr Sadik Thiab, president of the Iraqi Weightlifting Federation, turned out to be a grey-haired graduate of Syracuse University. And 18-year-old Maissa Hussein, a petite track athlete

with a pig-tail who had won a bronze at the Asian Games in Indonesia two years ago, did nothing more bellicose than smile at the cameras with an Iraqi flag draped fetchingly round ber shoulders.

Said Abdul-Hussein, a boxing coach, insisted that the Iraqis merely wished to show "Arah solidarity and Arab brotherhood, translated into action at the games".

True, a few of the Iraqi athletes looked rather paunchy, oursing the kind of beer-bellies that might seem more familiar

on ... well, on Iraqi secret service agents. But there was no doubting the sympathy of the locals. Syrian taxi drivers waved cheerfully at the stranded athletes, punching the air with their fists. And Syria, supposedly oot oo speaking terms with Iraq, bad giveo the athletes an unprecedented open visa when they rurned up on the closed Iraqi-Syrian border on Thursday.

No one would explain why, but it wasn't difficult to guess. As Syria has grown ever more critical of Turkey's oew military

relationship with Israel - Israeli fighter-pilots can now fly in Turkish airspace north of the Syrian border - so Damascus has been opening up economic and cultural ties with Iraq. And how better to signal its contin-ued warmth towards Baghdad - and refusal to accept an Israeli-Turkish military strangulation - than to let the 97 Iraqis travel towards Lebanon? If the Americans - enthusiastic supporters of the Israeli-Turk-

ish alliance - did not like it, so

yesterday afternoon, the Iraqi athletes were counting the medals they still hoped to win at the games they cannot attend. Five golds with a spread of silvers and bronzes, they thought, with just a hint of Saddamite exaggeration. Asel Tabra, the bead of the Iraqi delegation, had gone off to demand - at the least - a document which formally forbad the Iraqis entry. No such back. For the Iraqis have out been refused permission to enter Lebanon; they just did oot have visas. If only it was

Britain urged to take third party role in Mid-East

Steve Crawshaw

Oslo accord veteran says that now US has left the scene, a vacancy exists for the role of Arab-Israeli mediator

One of the architects of the Oslo peace accords spoke in London vesterday of the need to launch a new peace initiative in Israel. and argued that Britain could

Yossi Beilin, a former deputy foreign minister, said: "Meeting with Robin Cook and others, I

involved in the Middle East. People understand the ramifications of an explosion."

The deal proposed by Mr Beilin is a half-way house pack-

age, which would create a po-

litical ceasefire, while at the

to avoid committing themselves as talks cootinue behind closed He insisted it was essential

that such talks remain secret: "Reporting daily would be a therefore difficult to imagine prescription for failure." The

however, be public knowledge - unlike the talks which led to the breakthrough in the Oslo peace deal.

In practice, however, it is that potentially damaging leaks

see an interest in Britain being same time allowing both sides existence of such talks, would, would not take place from both part, would do everything in its see the danger of an explosion".

Mr Beilin suggested that Is-rael should "pause" for six months with its plans to build housing at the site known to Israelis as Har-Homa. The Palestinian leadership, for its

gether with "negotiations oo a final solution" - including an terests and expectations of both sides". But, he said, it was impossible "without a third party".

This third party, he suggested, could be Britain, now that the United States has in effect withdrawn from its active tole in the Middle East peace process. - "The Americans have left the region - and have just left us some phone numbers where we can reach them." third party, Mr Beilin said, "I comments by Ms Short on summer hobdays.

power to stop street violence. Mr Beilin said that the During that period, further talks would take place on re-British government had given a cautious welcome to his pro-posals. "Nobody said: 'It's a deployment of Israeli troops, towonderful idea, let's roll up our sleeves.' But nobody threw me out of the window." He was

survival of the hawkish Benjamin Netanyahu and his government, saying: "It's almost a miracle that it still exists. The fragmented coalitioo could fall apart, any day." But he added

a cautionary note, too: "Because it's so weak, it could survive." Mr Beilin held meetings this week with Mr Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and with Clare Short, Secretary of State for International Development. Is- lookout. There were no pupils Without the intervention of a rael was furious at recent, in the building because of of the

Palestinians, where she spoke of "the unfalmess of the world's expectation that [Palestinians) should make sacrifices to make up for the evil done by Europeans during the Holocaust". As a sign of official displeasure, the Israeli ambaisador staved away from the ministe-

rial meeting.

Hebron, West Bank (AP) terday hurled stones, fire bombs and homemade explosives at Israeli soldiers.

Twenty rioters were injured by rubber ballets fired by Israeli troops, including a 12-year-old child left partially paralysed by a head wound.

Palestinians threw a pipe bons into the courtyard of an elementary school that had been seized by soldiers as a







international

Coup victor's round-up strikes fear in Cambodia

Tearful and exhiusted, a mother waves to her thre-year-old son as ne boards a flightfrom his fractured homeland. For the moment at least, she is staying in alone to help others threatened by Cambodia's new regime to have the country. For her own afety, this local aid

wnrker and himan rights activist asked not to bedentified. "The situation for anyose who has been critical of Hun ien in the past is extremely danerous right now," she says, her glaed, bloodshot eyes straining after week of anxiety and sleepless nights.

the leap day the

1.18

Over recest days, since an effective coup d'tat swept Han Sen, Cambodia's 'second" jnint prime minister, ino sole power, thnusands have een living in fear.

"Hundres of people have already been arrestd in the provinces, all of them oposition figures, inde-pendent human rights activists and iournalists who the new regime sees as a treat," she says.

Her figres, confirmed by Unit-

ed Nation officials in Phnom Penh, are disturing. In the picturesque north-wetern province of Siem Reap, hone to the ancient Khmer temples (Angkor Wat, at least 100 people ave been detained, she says. Mot are civil servants affiliated with Fucinpec, the political party of the osted Prince Norodom Ra-

A futher 31 people are being held it eastern Preay Veng, 20 more nKhom Pong Speu province. Acres the country an estimated 300 peple have disappeared from their buses in the past five days, in-cludin a prominent Funcinger gov-ernor Serey Mondul. According to huma rights workers, they are beinmeld by armed cadres of Hun Sen's Communist People's Party (CP), which is rooting out its



been arrested or disappeared

the looting has ended, but there is widespread fear on the streets, "said David Hawk, head of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights in Cambodia.

Hun Sen has invited his oppo-nents to join a new coalition gov-ernment and has been publicly assuring them of their safety. But the executions earlier this week of two senior Funcinpec officials has intimidated others and driven most

There are unconfirmed reports of other killings: human rights groups are expressing particular concern about the fate of some 150 people believed to have been detained in the northern province of Kampal. And aid workers are escorting an increasing number of opposition fig-ures onto planes out of the country.

In Washington, the State De-partment has sent what it says is a clear signal" nf disapproval to Hun Sen: it is suspending aid to Cambodia for a period of 30 days "he fighting has mostly stopped, Japan and Canada have followed those departing heard his call.

fiant, perhaps gambling that the in-ternational community at large may stand back from Cambodia and

allow his beavy-handed rule. "Many governments recognise that the two-headed coaliting of Ranariddh and Hun Sen did not work," says Raoul Jennar, a political analyst living in Phnom Peah. "Despite the fact that he is brutal, diplomats, the World Bank, and businessmen all recognise that Hun Sen is a man with whom they can nperate. "Much now depends on how

Hun Sen can portray his government to the world. If he can convene the National Assembly, pass laws, and promise to hold elections next year, I think the majority of countries — while condemning his actions — will accept him, he says.

But for the moment, more nations are evacuating their citizens and ex-patriates are leaving in their thnusands. Bert Hoak, the American proprietor of the travellers' meeting-place Bert's Books, packs his tomes nn Cambodian culture and travel in readiness for his own journey to the airport.

His imminent departure is a measure of the uncertainty that is grip-ping many here. "I will not work in a country with this kind of government. I refuse to keep my family in an environment of fear, where there is no democracy and no human rights," he says angrily. His wife, an ethnic Khmer, is say-

ing her goodbyes to the family she is to leave behind to face what many believe could be Cambodia's new dictatorship. Yesterday, the Australian air

force picked up its country's citizens, and those of Canada, as hundreds of dismayed Cambodian faces pressed hard against the mesh fences which surround the runway. "You are abandoning us again," shouted one man, an elderly taxi tout

standing at the bent steel gates near

Royal Jomtien Resort hotel in Thalland yesterday







Hotel blamed as fire kills 78 at Thai beach resort

Braporn Wonpaithoon Associated Press

Pattaya - Fire raged through a 17-story luxury hotel yesterday in the beach resort city of Pattava, killing at least 78 people, including eight Westerners.

Police said more bodies may be inside, and firefighters contimed searching through the smoke-filled 450-room Royal Jomtien Resort on Jomtien Beach, 110km (68 miles) south nf Bangkok.

Survivors said they heard no fire alarms, the hotel apparently had no sprinklers, and emer-gency ents were found locked, Firefighters had the hlaze under cantrol by mid-afternoon, but took until 9pm to extinguish it. Rescue workers no sprinklers went off and there used cranes and floodlights were no warnings of any kind. through the night to search the

top storeys. The Thai Interior Minister, Snoh Thienthing,, hlamed the high number of fatalities on histel pperators who locked emergency exits in prevent customers from leaving without paying. Police said many of the bod-

ies were found near the locked emergency doors. In addition to the dead, at least 64 people were injured. Many were scrinusly

Police said eight Westerners were among the dead, but could identify them only as five men and three women.

More than 30 Thais killed have so far been identified, including 17 employees of the state-owned Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand and several members of the local subsidiary of Pepsico, who were attending seminars at the hotel. Eleven hotel workers

also perished.

The fire started at about 9am when a gas oven exploded in a first floor coffee shup, police said. It quickly spread to other floors, searing black burn marks into the building's white facade from the ground floor to

from the payement as people screamed for help and waved towels from windows on the upper floors. A man jumped from an 11th-floor window to avoid the flames, and died. Rescue workers carried out dozens of charred, blackened bodies.

The hlack plume of smoke stretched far above the white sand beach as three police helicopters, navigating their way through it, plucked terrified guests from the hotel roof.

Rescue terms on the roof dropped harnesses down to guests who made it to the top floor and were crying for help from windows as smoke hil-liwed out hehind them.

Rochelle Stein-Sami, American, told ITV television that no smoke alarms sounded, were no warnings of any kind. The mayor of Pattaya, who called the fire the city's worst tragedy, also said the hotel did not have sprinklers.

Ms Stein-Sami was able to use her mobile phone to call from her top-floor room to a friend on the street standing next to police. They told her helicopters were on the way.

Television crews lilmed her daughter as she was lifted in a harness, still clutching her brown teddy hear, to rescue workers on the roof and bundled into a helicopter. Firefighters siphoned water

from the hotel pool to fight the hlaze, which is thought to have caused at least \$40m (£24m) in

Earlier this year. Prime Minister Chavalii Yongchaiyudh called Pattaya "Thailand's greatest source of evil."

Bangkok has had a high number of hotel and department store fires in recent years. Fire safety experts in Thailand say many buildings don't meet basic safety standards. In 1993, 188 people died in

a fire at the Kader Toy factory in the north-east. Police said factory supervisors had locked Photograph: Reuters Hundreds of people watched workers from taking breaks.

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recommend it to the learner." The Bankers nstitute of New Zealand says, "Accelerated

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Ivor Allchurch

People who believe that football in the United Kingdom has never been better represented than it is by players now turn-ing out in the Premier League are ignorant of standards set more than 40 years ago by the first generation of post-war professionals. Born before the outbreak of bostilities in 1939 and thus denied the benefits of organised development, they revealed a rare instinct for the game, providing the impetus that led to England's victory in the 1966 World Cup final and successes in European club

Remarkahly, a number came from an area of South Wales centred on the old port of Swansca. It served up John Charles who achieved great fame in Italy with Juventus and, for the local Second Division club, then known as Swansea Town, a forward line made up entirely of Welsh internationals: Harry Griffiths, Terry Medwin, Ivor Allchurch, Len Allchurch, and Cliff Jones.

All but Griffiths moved on, Jones achieving great distinction in the colours of Tottenham Hotspur, but none captured the imagination more than Ivor Allchurch, who became known as the "Golden Boy" of Welsh

Tall, blond, strong and elegant with a loping stride that carried him effortlessly past opponents, Allchurch was a classic inside forward, a master of the defence-splitting pass whose goals resulted frequently from the violent accuracy of his long-range shooting.

Discovered in local football by Swansea's trainer, Ioe Sykes, and recruited to the ground staff. Allchurch made his senior début in 1949 after completing National Service with the Army. He was an immediate success and in 1951 gained the first of 68 caps, a record only broken in 1986 by Joey Jones of Wrexbam, Liverpool and Chelsea. Joined in the Swansea and

brother, Len, he made 330 league appearances, scoring 124 goals before a belated move to the First Division with Newcastle United.

ABBC television documentary about Swanses footballers seen recently in Wales brought back the extent of Allchurch's brilliance. "I didn't have to be reminded that Ivor was a great player," Cliff Jones said. "He had the lot, including a marvellous temperament and would have been a sensation in the game today. Things were a lot different then. Because of the maximum wage players couldn't better themselves financially from a transfer and Ivor was always a home-town hoy. It was a bit late by the time he joined Newcastle but I'm sure that if he'd gone to a big English club earlier we'd be speakling about one of the all-time greats."

After many attempts to prise Allchurch away from Swansea bad failed (Wolverhampton Wanderers made repeated offers), he was sold to Newcastle for £28,000 in October 1958 af-World Cup finals in Sweden, their only appearance. The late Dave Bowen, who captained that team and Arsenal, recalled, "I'm sure we surprised a lot of people, that they looked at Ivor and wondered where he had been hiding. He could have played for any of the teams out there, including Brazil who only just managed to beat us in the quarter finals. Every time I got back to Arsenal after playing for Wales I implored them to try and sign Ivor, and if there hadn't been so many outstand-ing youngsters coming through at Manchester United I know

that they would bave made a hig effort to sign him." What Allchurch needed was a big stage on which to display his exceptional talent. Although admired greatly by Newcastle's

supporters, scoring 46 goals in 143 league appearances, he



Waster of the defence-splitting pass: Alicharch, the 'Goldon Boy' of Weish footbal

was denied any of soccer's great prizes and his transfer value had fallen to £15,000 when he signed for Cardiff City in August 1962. Retaining a passion for the game, Allchurch played on for many years, rejoining Swansea in 1965 and then appearing in non-league football for Worcester City, Haverfordwest and Pontardawe Athletic before retiring in his forties.

As a member of Swansea's today would be valued in eight playing staff briefly in the 1950s I got to know Allchurch, but not intimately. Sometimes we'd take the same path home from training but he wasn't much for

Ivor John Allchurch, footballer: born Swansea 16 December 1929; played for Swansea 1947-58, Newcastle United 1958-62, Cardiff City 1962-65, Swansea

ing, be took his fame lightly. He had a slow smile and a quiet way of speaking. An exceptional footballer, it is no exaggeration to suggest that Ivor Allchurch

1965-68, Worcester City, 1968; MBE 1966; married (two sons); died Swansea 10 July 1997.

W. O. G. Lofts

W. O. G. Lofts was one of the great researchers of the century. He was assiduous in his literary explorations and excavations, almost pedantically so. If you mentioned in passing that you had bad trouble tracking down the death certificate of a certain obscure author, a week or so later he would present you with the information, together with the colour of the coffin he was shuffled off in and the wood it was made of.

He was a more or less permanent fixture in the Reading Room of the British Museum for nearly 50 years, although he was equally at home trawling through the births/deaths ledgers at Somerset House, then St Catherine's House, as well as the Public Records Office. Companies House, and the British Library Newspaper Archive up at Colindale. He rarely made the kind of assumptive leaps some researchers can produce at the snap of two fingers; his watch-word was "Dogged does it", and, with him, it did. Given a task - a short story to find some-where in two decades' worth of a pre-war daily newspaper, say, or the birth-and-death dates of a minor Victorian author - he would follow it through to the end. His failures were rare.

William Oliver Guillemont Lofts was born in Marylebone, London, in 1923. His schooling, at Barrow Hill Road Elemen tary (adjacent to Lord's Cricket Ground) was rudimentary, in 1940, at the age of 17, he joined the Zenith Carburettor Co as an apprentice engineer, staying with them until 1968. It was the continual roar of engine in the firm's machine shops which almost certainly destroyed his hearing. In later years he was profoundly deaf, and could not function without a bearing-aid (although at times be used this aid as a weapon - slyly turning it off, or making it "whistle" -against bores, fools, braggarts and scoundreis, all of whom crossed his path quite fre-

quently, in one way or another).
In 1968 he joined a large West End PR firm as a "messenger". This by no means menial job involved not a great deal of work (he regularly pottered around central London with quantities of cash, valuable documents, crucial legal papers needing signing), but enabled him, back at the office, to sit like a spider at the centre of his web, utilising the firm's phone to do his real business of contacting au-

thors and gossiping with friends.
On occasion his phone calls took an hour or so to complete. The directors, however, never minded, since Lofts was always happy to do private jobs for them at the British Library, say, or Somerset House, tracking down ancestors to the third, fourth or fifth generation. One of his finest coups was discov-ering that one of his employer's ancestors had been deported to Australia for sheep-stealing, then hanged for highway robbery. The director in question dined out on the tale for years.

For most of the 1960s through to the 1980s be did a good deal of highly confidential work for the legal department of what was then the biggest purveyor of printed entertain-

ment in the world, IPC Maga-zines (then part of the Mirror Group). This mainly concerned copyright problems, and in-volved much turfing around in the births and deaths ledgers at Somerset House.

Quite often, however, real and damaging secrets - whether from 80 years ago, or the pre-vious month - had to be re-vealed to him; as a consequence Lots bears where owite a few Lofts knew where quite a few of the bodies were buried, and like the courtier at the court of King Midas had, as it were, to whisper to the trees. Thus, every 18 months or so, trusted friends would receive a letter full of the most stupendous libels - all true, but not easily provable - about various

household names. His other method of letting off steam was to announce suddenly, when visiting you, in the middle of a companionable silence: "Of course, he was bad up for exposing himself in Hyde Park", or, "Of course, his father was a Nazi war criminal". As one's lower jaw thudded against one's chest and one managed to articulate the one word "Who?" he would airly wave a hand, say, "You know - him", and then his hearing-aid would conveniently start whistling.

As a boy Bill Lofts read the Gem and the Magnet (home of Billy Bunter) as well as various D.C. Thomson papers such as



Lofts: whispering to the trees

Rover, Wizard and Adventure (which, in truth, he secretly preferred to the Frank Richards pa-pers), but it was not until 1944, as a humble squaddie in the jungles of Burma, chasing the Japanese, that he had a kind of "road to Damascus" experience, stumbling across a Sexton Blake

paperback in a deserted hut. Sparked off by this experience Lofts became fascinated by juvenile literature, and after the war gained a British Library reader's ticket and began a lifetime's research into the subject, as well as popular fiction in general, although it was always the authors and their lives that attracted him rather than

their work. He was never a great reader. Or indeed a collector, although at one stage be put together the largest collection of "Number Ones" (the premier issues of story-papers, comics, women's magazines and other popular fiction journals from the 1890s through to the 1970s) in the world. Which be then sold, the price being right. When he bought old story-papers it was usually for clients - there were two or three elderly Hollywood expats who paid top dollar for quality material whose collec-

tions would not have been he as valuable without Bill Lott In his younger days he mae himself indispensable to the Sexton Blake crowd (both ed tors and writers) by acting banker to feckless backs such the late Jack Trevor Story and Wilf McN:illy, cashing cheque that even the landlords of Flet Street and Ludgate Circus at the landlords of Flet Street and Ludgate Circus at the landlords wouldn't ternoon dinking dens wouldn touch. He never charged inter est, and ic always got hi money back. Quite often h

on more plan crockery.

He had piter adventures

While visiting the well-appointed
home of one of the most cele home of onl of the most celes brated collectors of Victorian bloods" (Viney the Vumpire, of The Feast of Blood, Spring Heeled Jack, The Suing of Fearls, etc.), and looking for the bathroom as his hott was making the tea downstain, he opened the wrong door, it find himself in a fully equipped and clearly well-used torter chamber.

During the 1950s he fell in with another recearcher into old

intervened in spousal rows

on more man one occasion

with another reparcher into old boys'/girls' bods and papers, the late Derek Adley. It was a perfect match Adley never owned a BL reaer's ticket and seldom mixed with collectors since his wife letested the since his wife letested the hreed, but he ked to keep records, building up lists of magazines, journals, comics, story-papers. Loftsupplied the raw information which Adley then collated. Our the years they issued a scorlor more of invaluable (thoug often deplorably printed) thecklists, bibliographies and lentification guides, including: We Ruper guides, including: The Rupert Bear Index (1979): William": a bibliography (180); The Thriller: n checklist (983); Detective Weekly: a biliography (1987); Origins of he Boys' Friend Library (1987)

Neither were natura writers Lofts in particular havig almost no idea how to contruct a paragraph so that it aptly followed on from the prevous one. Most of the editors of he journals he wrote for put an ex-tra hour on bis appllingly typed pieces, since Lorlan na-narel could be baffling During the 1970s, as an editorit IPC and later as a freelace, I and later as a free ace, i cleaned up, at times imply ghosted, countless articles for various journals; even full-length works such as The Forla of Frank Richards (1975) at the face-lift treatment. The one that slipped through the news. The Saint and Legis Chaters (1970), a book so bad a sole new category of awfulness aght.

to have been created for i But then he wasn't a schlar . and he wasn't an academidHe was simply a stubborn plouher through dusty old volumes ho made countless important in some cases startling, discoveres about the kinds of writers to neverappear in reference boks and who, but for Bill Lofts ad a few others like him (althogh there was never anyone emotely like Bill) would remin forever in an unjust oblivior

Jack Adrin

William Oliver Guillemont Los, writer, researcher, engineer: bon London 2 September 1923; did London 27 June 1997.

Michael Hand

Michael Hand was an awardwinning and richly talented journalist, but as a raconteur and gossip he was a Dublin

Best known as Editor of the Sunday Independent in Dublin and earlier as the roving author of the Sunday Press's "Down Your Way column, a weekly chronicle of life where the roads were bad, Mick, or "Mickser" to his cronies, carried another dimension of colour and real-life buman quirkiness to the printed page.

He came from Drogbeda and never lost the warm growling accent of the mainly working-class port on the Boyne. He worked first on the town's Argus newspaper, after appearing for interview on be-half of his identical twin brother. Jim. The employers failed to catch the ruse and by the time they did Michael had his feet well planted under the desk. He

was allowed to stay.

After Drogheda he rose through the ranks, working at the Irish News Agency, then the Dublin Evening News, the Sunday Review, and the Sunday Press.

His gentle manner enabled him to mix easily with and win confidences from both sides during Northern Ireland covcrage which included the hor-rors of the Sbankill Butchers' atrocities in the early Seventies.

thesis of Daily Mail foot-inthe-door pushiness. His special talent was putting interviewees a new contract loomed. them in a confessional direction, drawing out stories in rich and curious detail. This required onerous duty in innumerable bars, a burden he endured for

the greater good of journalism. Appointed editor of the Sunday Independent in 1976, Hand encouraged witty columnists such as the playwright Hugh Leonard. With his younger, more forceful assistant, Michael Denieffe, be brought to the news pages both an edge and more rounded background to larger stories, giving the public livelier reading and consolidating circulation. Leonard himself



appropriate to arrange whenever at their ease, patiently guiding Unlike more charged colleagues, Hand seldom seemed ruffled by the tensions of pro-

> sure, confident touch for the angle and presentation of a story. Though his Fianna Fail sympathies were at odds with the previous colouring of the In-

duction deadlines. He had a

dependent Newspapers stable in Abbey Street, he attracted no enemies among editorial ranks. His disregard for confining budgets bowever created nervous trauma for his financial masters on the fourth floor. His political leanings enabled the publishers to assert that theirs was not a blind Fine

Gael adherence, an allegiance in any case unravelling by the mid-Eighties as the FF leader Charles Haughey, encouraged by his aide P.J. Mara, wooed editors with a long-lunch offensive. Hand, already an admirer, found himself the recipient of Christmas presents including the finest grand cru wines with specially printed labels proclaiming "To Mr Michael Hand from his

friend Charles J. Haughey". His droll wit could hit a target but without showing malice. At an annual review of progress by the company's titles, Hand explained he was wooing a wider

for poets and short-story writers. When a junior director, keen to impress the chairman, interjected to ask "And what sort of people entered?" there was a lethal pause as Hand fixed him with a stare and replied: "Main-

ly poets and short-story writers."

idle conversation. Unassum-

His capacity for food was considerable. At bome he would reportedly take an entire rice pudding into another room to avoid sharing it. At Abbey Street he became the centre of a coterie of bon viveurs who dined frequently and grandly as guests at Sean Kinselia's "Mirabeau" in Sandycove, south Dublin. He appreciated the company of women, and they seemed to like him too.

A particular close colleague was the voluble and iconoclastic social diarist John Feency. When Feeney and his close col-leagues Kevin Marren, Tony Heffernan and Niall Hanley died in a light plane crash on the south coast of England in 1984, Hand was devastated. Losing his closest friends drained away much of the pleasure of work. He had himself only pulled out of the fateful trip at a late stage.

After the Sunday Independent, Hand moved to the rival Sunday Tribune. penning a variety of features and larger as-signments including travelling to

The Troubles in Northern Ireland, it is

often said, are not about religion. This last week you could be forgiven for thinking otherwise. True, there has been the usual talk about tribalism and

identity, triumphalism and discrimina-

tion. But the religious dimension was

unavoidable. It was a church service

which was the starting-point for the Or-

angemen's controversial progress down

the Garvaghy Road in Portadown. It was an outdoor Mass held in full vestments

before the armoured Land-rovers of the

security forces which was perhaps the

most striking nationalist response, touching raw folk memories of the days during the Protestant supremacy when many Catholics could only hear Mass

Cynics might say that yesterday's de-

cision by four Orange lodges to re-route similar marches in Belfast, Newry,

Armagh and Londonderry was prompt-

ed by the Byzantine calculation of

partisan advantage which characteris-

es the political process in the province. Perhaps they were warned by the RUC

that there were quite simply not enough

police in the province to prevent loss of life in the nationalist protests which

were planned. But we should be more

History is about change. Yet those who profess themselves to be concerned

with the spiritual often blind themselves

charitable.

said on a rock in the open air.

His personality was the anti- would recount the pleasure of audience with expanded arts. Africa - despite having earlier lesis of Daily Mail foot-in- the extensive lunches Hand felt coverage, led by a competition suffered a stroke - where his poignant writing caught the full tragedy of events in Rwanda and won him an award in 1994. Unfailingly warm, genial and

good-mannered, Hand gave generous encouragement to a long line of aspiring reporters. When he and his brother Jim were treated to a joint 50th birthday party in Scruffy Murphy's pub, the event was at-tended by admirers from all walks of public life. A Dublin magazine observed of one former beauty queen clad in a minute dress, "Parts of her anatomy seemed to be forming an escape committee."

Michael Hand's easy-going

manner could also get him into trouble. Returning late at night from a restaurant after earlier hospitality in the Dail, he was accosted by a patrolling garda. After rolling down the car window, the officer ventured gently, "And would it be the case that you have drink taken, Sir?" Hand replied candidly, "Izn out of ten, Sherlock." A summons duly followed.

Alan Murdoch Michael Hand, journalist, born Drogheda. Co Louth 5 May 1936; Editor, Sunday Independent 1976-84; married (two daughters); died Dublin 10 July 1997.

Alexander Cordell

An inn named after Alexander Overlooking the Usk valley, it Cordell may become as much a was named after the writer fol-Mecca for his devotees as Brown's Hotel in Laughame is for Dylan Thomas enthusiasts, writes Tony Heath [further to the obituary by Meic Stephens, 11 July].
The Cordell Country Inn

The Cordell Country Inn stands halfway up the winding B4246 road linking the village of Govilon with Blaenavon.

They became friends and to-day a picture of Cordell hangs over the fireplace and prints from Rape of the Fair Country

How the Orange card was turned into a trump

lowing a chance meeting with Graham Jones and his wife Margaret, when they were converting the building from a house 13 years ago.

decorate the walls. Paul Flyn MP for Newport West, re members visiting the inn with parliamentary colleague. Hun Edwards, MP for Monmouth and a Gordell devotee. When they walked in, Cordell was sitting down having a meal. "Huw couldn't believe it - he said afterwards it was like meeting Shakespeare," Flynn recalls.

Births, Marriages & Deaths

DEATHS

COVENTRY: James Edward Campbell who died in St Albans at home on 8 July 1997. Formerly a meteorologist and climatologist. Loved by his wife Sheila and family. Funeral service to be held at United Reformed Church, Homewood Road, St Albans, on Friday Library 12 June 18 July 1907. day 18 July 1997 at 1 Ham followed by private cremation at West Herts Cre-matorium. All further inquiries to Phillips Funeral Services, telephone 01727 65 1006.

Amountements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding analyst suries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor. The Independent, I Canada Square, Crossry Wharf, London EL4 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering machine 6171-293 2012) and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Dube of Mork holes prevents the purces at the Look Loutened Golf Intercusional at the Look Loutened Golf Ords, Loss, Osmberiorsham; and conserve utters on the Remburghe Colf Challenger, Marin in aid of Cas-cer Relief Mesentlian Fund at the Bondestythe Golf Change. Reshareholm.

Changing of the Guard GRANGERS OF THE GELLARGE
TOPAR'T The Hossischeld Creater Mounted Regardent
mounts the Queen's Life Grand at Bisses Gampin. (Line,
1d Bettadent Sorte Gastrale stoottes the Queen's Quantat Bucklinghous Praises, (L. 100m, bunn) provided by the
Coldineam Grants. TORIGIRONE The Homeshold
Creaty Mounted Repositest mounts the Queen's Life
Grands Automatic Repositest mounts the Queen's Life
Grands at Horse Gamtha, 100m, in Battatin Bryal
Gauthin Ratics mounts the Obsen's Garant at Breelleghtum Faders, 11. Mines, band provided by the Coldstream Garant. Birthdays TODAY: Mr Alan Bamford, former Principal, Homerton College, Cambridge, 67; Mr Milton Berle, comedian. 89; Miss Chilli Bouchier.

actress, 88; Mr John Bullock, former joint senior partner. Coopers & Ly-brand, 64; Sir Alastair Burnet, broadorant, 64; Sir Alastair Burnet, brude-caster, 69; Mr Van Cliburn, pianist, 63; Mr Bill Cosby, comedian and ac-tor, 60; Miss Annabel Croft, tennis player, 31; Lord Cuckney of Mill-bank, chairman, Orion Publishing Group, 72; Mr Gareth Edwards, rugby player, 50; Sir Arthur Het-beriegten, former chairmen British former chairman, British Gas, 86; Dom Philip Holdsworth, for-mer Master, St Benet's Hall, Oxford, 76; Mr Thomas Illtyd James, retired surgeon, 97; Mr Michael Kenward, science writer, 52; Mr Michael Gough Matthews, former Director, Royal College of Music, 60; Lord Onirk, former President, British Academy, 77; Miss Jennifer Sannders, comedienne and actress, 39; Sir Harold Walker, former MP. 70; Mr Frank Windsor, actor, 70, TOMOR-ROW: Mr David Blatherwick, ambassador to Egypt, 56; Professor Derek Brewer, former Master, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, 74; Sir Richard Buxton, High Court judge, 59; Mr Ian Campbell, civil engineer, 75; Sir James Craig, Arabic scholar and Vice-Chairman, Middle East Association. 73: Mr Moss Evans, former trade union leader, 72; Mr Harrison Ford, actor, 55; Mr Larry Gomes, West Indies cricketer, 44; Vice-Admiral the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Normiral the Hon Sir Nicholas Hill-Nor-ton, former Deputy Chief of Defence Stall, 58; Mr Ian Histop, Editor, Pri-vale Eye, 37; Mr Peter Joh, chief ex-ecutive, Reuters, 56; Sir Philip Jones, chairman, Total Oil Marine, 66; Mr

Renneth Machin, a circuit judge and Chief Social Security Commis-sioner, 61; Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard Mansfield, 76; Mr Bryan Murray, ac-tor, 48; Dr Ghillean France, Direc-tor, Kew Gardens, 50; Brigadier Dame Jean Rivett-Drake, former Di-rector, WRAC, 88; Dr Patricia Redgers, Permanent Secretary, Min-isny of Rurism, the Bahamas, 49; Mr Chris Serle, television presenter, 54; Miss Rachel Squire MP, 43; Mr Patrick Stewart, actor, 57; Mr David Storey, playwright, 64; Professor th Rev Dr Anthony Thiselton, head of the Department of Theology, Not-tingham University, 60; Professor Jeff Thompson, educationalist, 59; Sir Garfield Todd, former prime minis ter, Southern Rhodesia, 89: Prolessor Sir Bernard Tomlinson, pathologist, 77; Mme Simone Vell, MEP, 70.

Anniversaries

TODAY: Births: Yul Brynner (You Bryner), actor, 1915. Deaths: Desidenus Erasmus, scholar, 1536. On this day, the Armada set sail from Spain 1588. Today is the Feast Day of St Fe-lix, Saints Hermagoras and Fortu-natus, St Jason, St John Gualbert, St John Jones, St John the Iberian, St Veronica, TOMORROW: Births: John Clare, peasant poet, 1793. Deaths: Jean-Paul Marat, French revolutionary leader, murdered in his bath 1793. On this day: a "Live Aid" rock concert, organised by Bob Geld-of, raised over £42m for African famine relief, 1985. Tomorrow is the Feast Day of Saints Bridget and Mau-ra, St Eugenius of Carthage, St Francis Solano, St Heavy the Emperor, St Mildred, St Silas or Silvanus

faith greason

Those who claim to be religious often mistake the expression of their faith for its essence. No one can now say that of the Orange Order, argues Paul Vallely.

values. Universal truths are expressed in different ways and apostolates in dif-ferent eras. The problem is that many who hold themselves to be religious confuse the essence with the expression. The result is then cultural ossification

rather than spiritual vitality. This is, of course, not a peculiarly Protestant trait. Indeed it might more generally be beld of Roman Catholics, who historically have demonstrated a tendency to ritualise and then attach meaning to the ritual which properly belongs to a truth which the ritual was

meant to honour. The most evident example of this is the Catholic traditionalist veneration of the Tridentine Latin Mass which was abolished by the reforming Second Vatto the fact when they talk of absolute ican Council by which Catholicism

the influence of reactionary groups like Opus Dei, which are attacked by the Pope's representative in England and Wales, Archbishop Luigi Barbarito, in an interview in the Tabler next week to mark the end of his 11 years as papal nuncio. He identifies such groups as Catholics "who clearly identify the Church with their own piety and the vision which authors there is no a start of the property and the vision which authors there is no a start of the property and the vision which authors there is no a start of the property and the vision which authors are a start of the property and the vision which authors are a start of the property and the vision which authors are a start of the property and the vision which authors are a start of the property and the prop sion which nurtured them in an earli-er period of history". His words might, until yesterday, bave applied equally aptly to the Orange Order.

Behind the expression of Orangeism is an essential Protestantism which fosters and celebrates freedom of conscience, personal liberty, tolerance and self-determination. All this followed from the reformed faith's sola scriptura insistence on the primacy of revelation and of the right of each Christian to interpret that for him or herself.

It is a powerful legacy which has much to offer to the whole of Ireland. Once it was seen to speak across the political divide: the great 18th-century Irish nationalist leader Wolf Tone was, after all, a Protestant. But it is now evident again in the preference for conciliation over confrontation in yesterday's decision. It was there in the dispersed authority by which the re-routing was the decision of autonomous individual Or-

sought to evangelise the modern world more effectively.

More widespread, if more covert, is

ange lodges. It was there when the Leader of the Orange Order, Robert Saulters, turned up to support Catholic Saulters, turned up to support Catholic worshippers who were being picketed by angry loyalists each week as they entered their church it Ballymena.

The shifting demographic patterns of the province mean that traditionally routed church parades to celebrate that Protestant identity have become something else. The Orangemen's new recognition of that is a demonstration of moral courage. Their right to parade remains, but the decision not to exercise it on this occasion shows a willinguess to look beyond the expression to the essence.

Now it is up to the Catholics to reciprocate. It is not enough for Gerry Adams to announce that the many nationalist mobilisations which were planned in response to the parades have

now been cancelled. Nor would it be enough p suggest that there will be no protest a the rest of the 2,000 parades which the Orange Order stages each July to mait the anniversary of the 1690 victory of Protestant King William over the deproned

Catholic monarch, James II. The Catholics of Northern reland too must now look to what distinguishes expression from essence. Onlywhen they do in sufficient numbers all the IRA feel the need to announce an , , Erecul wiffs

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THE INDEPENDENT

FOUNDED 1985

ONE CANADA SQUARE CANARY WHARF LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE 0171-293 2000/0171-345 2000 FAX 0171-298 2435/0171-345 2435

We really should be ruder about foreigners

ans Tietmeyer is a "real pig". Edith Cresson is an "old bag". Goran Persson is a "wally". Suddenly the lid is taken off what one European leader says in private about some others. The response among Austrians to their foreign minister's unguarded outburst has been outrage, and opposition MPs have called for Wolfgang Schüssel's resignation. Outside Austria, the response is more likely to be amusement. And amusement, rather than somewhat hypocritical outrage, is the best reaction.

We can think of some colourful descriptions of Mr Schüssel himself (especially after he tried to claim he had been "mis-reported"), but would not want to be too rude: after all, he was performing a valuable democratic service. Most citizens of the European Union, and certainly most of those who are also inhabitants of the United Kingdom, would be hard pressed to iden-tify the objects of Mr Schüssel's scorn. But there is nothing like a few unexpected insults for attracting attention. Many more people will now be mildly curious to know whether the president of the Bundeshank is actually swinish. Just how old and unlikeable is the European Commissioner? How stupid is the Swedish prime minister?

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Without wanting to pronounce defini-tively on the answers, these are questions that ought to matter. If there is going to be

a genuine democracy at a Europe-wide level - a big "if", admittedly - then we have to get to know politicians of other nationalities. So there is a strong case for being much ruder about Europe's leaders. Our own politicians are familiar to us partly through caricature - one of the ways in which we form a view of what sort of people they are is by seeing what mud sticks where in the hurly-burly of yah-boo politics. It is not pretty, and much of the name-calling that passes for political debate is pointless and demeaning. But democracy does need a certain earthiness and spirit to function well. Part of the problem of the European Union is the sheer bloodless blandness of its bureaucratic, multilingual workings.

Who, apart from a small clique of professional politicians, has an opinion worth having, one way or the other, about Jacques Santer? This man is the figurehead of the EU, yet very few people across Western Europe have any sense of him. His prede-cessor, Jacques Delors, who always looked as if he had just bitten a lemon, probably left a more distinct image on our collective retina. It would help if Mr Schüssel would let us know what he thinks of the president of the European Commission. If the European electorate is to hold its supranational rulers to account, it needs to have shorthand ways of understanding "foreign" politicians.



However much most people want politicians to recognise merit in the proposals of other parties and to co-operate more with each other, we all thrill to the frisson of the well-turned insult or the soap-operatic drama of a bitter rivalry. What we want is good, memorable insults, Elizabethan in quality, and larger-than-life figures.

Helmut Kohl fits the bill reasonably well,

mostly by taking the larger-than-life thing a bit too literally. But Jacques Chirac? What do we know of him? The wide-boy of French politics, and little more. Many might have a clearer idea of what his prime minister. Lionel Jospin, stands for - because of his spat with Tony Blair over the newness of socialism. Given how important Mr Jospin is in shaping our collective European destiny, would our Prime Minister not have performed a greater service had he publicly attacked his French counterpart as an unreconstructed Old Labour fossil?

All right, this is not something that should be taken too far. There is obviously a danger that being rude about foreigners will slide into xenophobia. Some of Wolfgang Schussel's other comments, for example, are indefensible. As well as laying into Tietmeyer, Cresson and Persson, he also called an African ambassador a "barefoot native" and the president of Belarus a "bizarre Turk". It would not be wise, to take another

example, to allow certain Conservative MPs or tabloid newspapers out after dark on the subject of Germans. And what is goodnatured ribaldry in one national culture would be a gross libellous slur in another. But if we are all members of the same European democratic family, we will have to learn how to be rude to each other as well as how to be polite.

The solution would be to hold a summit to draw up a new European treaty. Each country would send a delegation of satirists, cartoonists and impressionists, who would draw up rules for mutually acceptable insult. Rudeness simply for the sake of it would be outlawed, but inventive invective would be positively encouraged. Sure, Denis Healey was best at savaging Margaret Thatcher (Rhoda the Rhino, and other gems), but it was François Mitterrand who really hit the mark with his oft-misquoted description: "She has the eyes of Caligula, but the mouth of Marilyn Monroe."
Of course, Tony Blair does not offer such

a promising target, but our European partners have been much too nice to him so far - to the extent of letting him win the bicycle race in Amsterdam. Next time, let us hear more of what they all really think of cach other. Then the rest of us might get to know the men in suits who increusingly make the laws that govern us.

■ LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ■

Wholesale changes needed in police disciplinary system

Sir: As a solicitor specialising in representing clients in civil actions against the police, I echo the views expressed by the Chief Constable of the West Midlands ("Corrupt police

can't be touched", 10 July). It is our experience that despite heads of police forces agreeing to pay thousands of pounds in damages to clients and legal costs, very, very rarely are individual police officers ever disciplined or prosecuted.

One of the reasons is the unique protection given to police officers. whereby their employers have to satisfy a criminal burden of proof to prove wrong-doing (a privilege not given to the fire service or the Prison

There are, however, other reasons why officers against whom serious allegations are made are not disciplined. The "double jeopardy" system whereby evidence used against a police officer in a criminal trial cannot be reused at a disciplinary hearing. The facts that

On the road with

Sir: There is an assumption that

accidents ("Doddery drivers put the rest of us at risk". 10 July). Yet

statistics show that accident rates of drivers aged 74 and over are lower

The car is a vital means by which

independence in accessing services

driving requires skills and alertness

Driving ability will not decline just

and maintaining social contacts. Whilst it is indispurable that safe

that deteriorate with age, such

deterioration varies enormously

because a person has hecome a

pensioner. The vast majority of

dangerous and giving up driving

altogether when it is no longer safe

Sir: Your report on uged drivers his a

raw nerve, as my grandfather has just

The problem of old drivers is new,

as they are the first generation of car drivers, which explains why there is

no reliable screening procedure to

sighted old people out of their cars.

The Government must set up yearly

hearing and sight tests for people

climinating potentially dangerous

members would stop driving years

before they actually do, but cannot

stop them without causing major

Comfort for Short

Sir: Clare Short ("Israelis outraged at Short speech". 11 July) may be comforted by David Lloyd George's

instructions to Sir Ronald Storrs.

governor of Jerusalem during the

First World War. He said: "I hear

the Jews and the Arahs; and if

very bad things about you from both

either of them stops you are out of a

diplomatic incidents.

London S1175

JOHN WRIGHT

West Wittering Hest Steam's

MADELEINE NEAVE

over 71), with strict criteria for

Families wish their elderly

keep hard-of-hearing, partially

had an accident and has decided to

older people are responsible citizens, taking steps to avoid driving in conditions which could be

than those of drivers aged 21 to 24 and less than half those of drivers

older drivers cause too many

the over-65s

aged 17 to 21.

to continue.

Director-General

stop driving at 92.

London SW16

Age Concern England

older people can retain

from person to person.

SALLY GREENGROSS

the Police Complaints Authority only "supervises" serious complaints and does no "investigating", and that the complaint itself is investigated by police officers from the same police

force, are unacceptable. If the public is to have confidence in the way the police are policed, wholesale changes are needed in the police complaints and discipline SADIQ KHAN

Sir: Corruption in the police service is clearly something to be deplored but treating police officers like the staff of a retail grocer is not the

Christian Fisher, Solicitors

London WC1

The current situation is an acknowledgement of the special role that police officers have in society and the need to protect them from fear of wrongful dismissal. A handful of corrupt police officers is a small price to pay for a service which is composed of officers who are not

frightened to do the job that society

expects of them.

Three years ago I was the subject of a malicious complaint, made with the sole intention of disrupting an investigation. From the outset of my eaquiries I expected intimidatory tactics of this nature. I was reassured by the knowledge that my accusers were faced with the same standard of proof as I was. I did my duty and was later praised for not allowing myself to be mimidated.

The majority of police officers are honourable men and women who face considerable danger in order to protect society. The danger of death or serious injury is something officers learn to live with. It is considered an acceptable risk. The danger of being dismissed from the service in disgrace on a trumped-up corruption charge is not. This is why the criminal standard of proof is soimportant. DC PETER SAVAGE Sussex Police

Lancing, West Sussex

Sir. Public confidence in the police is at an all-time low and the way to clean up any organisation is to start

at the top, not at the bottom.
The law states that chief
constables must record all complaints against police officers with the Police Complaints Authority. However, the PCA has frequently made representations to the Home Secretary about a weakness in the law which readers them powerless in cases where chief constables choose to ignore this irisome piece of legislation, particularly when the outcome of investigations might suggest that they are not running a disciplined force. That home secretaries have, over a

number of years, resolutely declined to confront this issue makes them complicit in encouraging chief constables to ignore the law. Could it be that the idea that there are bent chief constables is too awful to contemplate? EDWARD CARRON Condover, Shropshire

A way forward for Ulster

Sir. We congratulate the Orange Order on the positive example set by its decision to re-route or call off four of its most contentious Twelfth of July parades. Their unilateral decision to stay away from contested areas is for the social, political and economic good of Northern Ireland.

In the coming days and weeks, action is needed to repair the damage the Garvaghy Road decision has done throughout Northern Ireland. In a situation where trust has been hadly shaken, the Secretary of State must use existing public order egislation innovatively to uphold the right to march while guaranteeing the civil liberties of communities that oppose marches. Neither must be sacrificed to a logic of "greater evil" or "lesser evil".

In the longer term, the Secretary of State must enact legislative reforms to enable local accommodations that take account of people's fears and mistrust. If dialogue is not used to achieve understanding, marches should be re-routed from residential areas where a significant portion of residents indicate they are unwelcome.

Disputants on either side of contentious marches have their part to play in moving this issue forward. Individuals and groups who wish to exercise their right to protest or to march must always do so in a dignified. peaceful and non-confrontational way. Equally, the security forces must refrain from using confrontational policing methods.

Last Sunday's decision was no victory for the loyalist orders. It was not based on the right 10 march, but on fear of violent reprisal. The Orange Order decision, however, represents a significant moral victory that in no way erodes their right to march. The Women's Coalition calls on others to follow their positive

example.
BRENDA CALLAGHAN
MARGARET LOGUE ROBIN WHITAKER Northern Ireland Women's Coalition

Censorship has no place in pop

Sir: Your recent article by Jason Bennetto (7 July), concerning Chief Constable Keith Hellawell's perfectly preposterous plan to "police" popular music, expressed the specious notion that the Shamen's 1992 No 1, "Ebeneezer Goode" was some sort of elegy to ecstasy. It was not, and nor did it contain the lyric which was quoted.

From our perspective, the song was a satire on certain attitudes then prevalent amongst the mainstream UK dance community, which lampooned some "ravers" and the commercialised, exploitative demimonde which they inhabited (a kind of Carry On Raving, if you like). Some had lost the plot, and were not capable of recognising that they were simply marketing targets for drug dealers.

Many had sadly forgotten or just didn't know what was positive about rave culture and were only concerned about how many pills they could consume in a night. Ridicule of these negative aspects (rather than glorification) was one of our aims, hopefully to encourage a degree of elf-reflection.

The difference between our own views regarding the lyrical content of this track and those of Mr Hellawell perfectly illustrate the impracticality of the censorship system he suggests, since obscenity, ike beauty, is surely in the mind of the beholder. THE SHAMEN

London E15

LETTER from

So the countryside came to lown - or, at least, the fox-hunters did. One senses that after the rout of the general election, Tory Britain has suddenly found itself a cause again. At the Spectator party on Thursday night, the rooms were studded with ruddy-faced, badge-wearing demonstrators in pugnacious mood. On the Conservative benches in the Lords, the defence of hunting, along with hostility to devolution and defence of "the hereditaries", forms the core of the anti-Blair resistance agenda.

Indeed, the fascinating possibility arises that the right wing, in opposition, will become a coalition of dispossessed protesters. Where once CND stopped the traffic, militant marquesses will be sitting cross-legged; instead of lesbians abseiling into the Lords, we'll have fox-hunters abseiling into the Commons; and rather than miners' support groups rattling plastic buckets outside Sainsbury's, stern-faced young men in tweed jackets and cavalry twill will be soliciting our money for the anti-Brussels

crusade. At one level, this is all merely amusing. The same Tory Britain which scoffed for years at political reformers who suggested that parliamentary absolutism lacked the safeguards for a properly plural and liberal society are now getting a taste of their own majoritarian medicine. Once, the views of English Thatch-erism were rammed down Scottish and northern English throats; now the views of politically-correct Blairites are being force-fed to the shires. Yet, although the postbag suggests that the vast majority

of Independent readers are and-hunting, we should note that there is a lesson here for the Government. If any vocal section of the country feels unfairly trampled on, its unease will be noted by many others.

Pluralism is a close cousin to liberalism and tolcrance. The Blairites came into power promising to devolve and diffuse it, commined to freedom of information legislation, a Bill of Rights and fair play in the Commons, and openminded about electoral reform. It would be a tragedy if. now they're in they simply behaved like the last lot. Even

the higgest majority doesn't guarantee wisdom. Nor, when disapproving of something. should we rush to han it. Tough-minded liberalism allows much to continue that the liberal personally abhors.

Ferociously anti-Orange and pro-Orange letters have been arriving all week. But if it is also a minority, it has been a far more dangerous one than foxhunters or peers. David McKil-trick, in a fine historical sketch in yesterday's paper, reminded us of the Order's long history of intimidation. But the same is true of the nationalists, and demonising either side is futile. (Cartoonists, of course, are allowed to demonise everybody.) Now, though, this unex-

The right wing, in opposition, may become a coalition of dispossessed

protesters; we'll have fox-hunters abseiling into the Lords ...

pected and cheering Orange decision should shake at least some of the prejudice against

them.

We know the Order was right partly because lan Paisley immediately came out against it. The man is truly driven by a logic from centuries ago.

Some readers will know the story of Paisley in full Sabbath bellow, warning his congreg-ation that the unrepentant faced "eternal damnation, whur thair will be rending of ctothes and much gnashing of teeth".

An old and notable sinner at the hack raises a shaky hand. "Please, Rev Paisley, what about those of us who don't have any teeth?"

A thoughtful silence: then Paisley leans low across the pulpit and pronounces with fearful deliberation: "Teeth ...

will be provided!" li says a lot about Paisley that no one seems sure whether this is a joke against him, or a reported example of his wit.

Andrew Marr

QUOTE UNQUOTE

We haven't threatened to dismiss people. We have said if you go on strike you are liable to lose your joh - Boh Ayling, chief executive of British Airways

Janet Street-Porter has done for fashion what the M25 has done for hedgehogs - Nick Ferrari, of cubic channel Live TV on the plans of the doyanne of voof TV to sell much of her wardrobe at Christie's I would hope we mean more to people than putting money in a church basket and saying 10 Haif Marys on a Sunday. Has God

played Knebworth recently? - Noel Gallagher, rock star I learnt to walk small around my father - Aisso Wayne, langer,

daughter of screen legend John Wayne It's pretty remarkable that I held a senior position in the Conservative Party - indeed might go further, who knows - despite the fact that I am the son of an immigraot. There aren't many

countries where you could penetrate the Establishment to that extent - Michael Portillo, former minister To my generation, the idea that some young men and women have to be forced into jobs is profoundly shocking. Unfortunately, is seems to be true - Lord Hattersley, Labour peer

I think you're bloody cruel, I couldn't do it [hunt] myself - David Bellamy, naturalist, to hunting supporters in Hyde Park in a speech acknowledging the conservationist role of country sports



Mistaken identity: an inquisitive woodmouse (left) and its rarer relative, the dormouse (right)

Why dormice can no longer be found in inner London

Sir: London Wildlife Trust would be pleasantly surprised to see dormice in Mortlake Cemetery. Unfortunately, the delightful cover photograph on your Weekend section (5 July) shows an inquisitive woodmouse (Apodemus sylvaticus), not its much rarer relative, as the caption claims. These widespread but rarely encountered mammals are found

throughout much of London in woodlands, wilder parks, large gardens, and of course

sympathetically managed cemeteries.
The dormouse (Muscardinus avellanarius) however, is much dependent on ancient coppiced woodlands with a high proportion of hazel. Loss of habitat has resulted in its decline; it has disappeared from

the latest surveys, if appears that in London, only the rural margins of Bromley have woodlands which support dormice. Conservation Manager London Wildlife Trust London NI

Funding for contemporary culture

Sir. Heritage is an essential part of the living traditions of a culture; so are the living arts, sports and charitable activities. Communicating all this, and much else, is also what contemporary culture is all about ("Goodbye heritage, hello culture",

9 July). On the issue of direct government involvement I believe strongly in the arm's-length principle for the individual decisions made by the grant aiding and National Lottery distributors. Ministers would find it a nightmare to be drawn into the detail of month-on-month, year-onyear funding decisions. I defy anyone to come up with a cheaper way of distributing National Lottery

Speaking for myself, I would like the government of the day to take ownership of the National Lottery as a whole. Instead of individual bodies, about which the public knows little, major awards by all the lottery distributors might be made at the same time by ministers so that the public could see the benefits of the lottery across the board. I resent the implication that the

Arts Council does not care about cheap opera seats. Our problem is that European opera companies receive 63 percent of their costs from the state, whereas British companies receive only 37 per cent. This makes it increasingly difficult for opera companies to bring ticket prices much lower while fulfilling requirements to balance their books The Treasury has taken nearly £20m in real terms ont of the grant-in-aid since 1994. There are no present indications that any redress is on the cards.

What stands in the way of achieving greater success for new talents and audiences is the split between regulations governing lottery funds and those governing grant-in-aid. The quantum of money should be sufficient to provide support for the infrastructure of the arts as well as adequate current funding. The problem is going from here to there. I am confident that ministers will try to help. Lord GOWRIE The Arts Council of England

Healthy profits Sir. The reason why the British Medical Association seeks to legalise synthetic

preparations derived from cannabis, rather than reassessing the natural berb (Letters, 10 July), is money. Natural remedies are outside the

seven English counties within the last

century and is now protected. From

scope of large pharmaceutical companies and their quest for exorbitant profits. Once a chemical is synthesised, as opposed to extracted from a herb or plant, the pharmaceutical companies can soak either the Government, or the patient, or both, with the unquantifiable costs of research. IAN TYSZKIEWICZ Berkhamsted Hertfordshire

Normans were first

Sir. All your correspondents (5, 7, 10 July) on Adrian IV's grant of Ireland ro Henry II have ignored the fact that the Normans first got there by the invitation of Dermot, King of Leinster, to help him in that country's chronic internecine warfare. Wing Cdr TFH HUDSON

London SW1 Letters should be addressed to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (Fax: 0171-193 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.nk) and include a daytime telephone number.

Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are mable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

Pessure.

agl'()nov

These Chinese professionals with international characteristics are vital to the future of Hong Kong, and may help it to become a still more extraordinary place, says Jonathan



Hong Kong: a middle-class act

ow that Hong Kong has become part of the last major country ruled by a Communist party, maybe it is time for a touch of Marxist class analysis of the last great British colony. In these days of Tony Blair and Bill Clinton, of leaders who seek to reach across old harden to form the form riers to form a consensus, talk of social class may seem as outdated as old stagers taking tea on the Peak. But there is a sense in which the class structure says a lot about what Britain's last major colony may be in its first year as part of China. And the diagnosis could give pause for thought to any Marxists who, in these days of Socialism with Chinese characteristics, remain

Hong Kong has a readily definable establishment upper class. Even if many of its members made their fortunes themselves, rather than inheriting them, some of the great firms are still British, grouped round the old colonial hongs - Jardine. Swire, and the mighty power of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, which has just been ranked by Business Week as the second most valuable bank in the world. But the great majority of them have, for some time now, been run

by Chinese. Most of the tycoons who dominate Hong Kong trace their origins hack to the mainland, many having fled here after the Communists took power. One formidable group comes from Shanghai - three of the four contenders to run Hong Kong after I July were from the former Paris of the East. Others spring from the great diaspora of the overseas Chinese. Between them, they ran Hong Kong's great property and

trading groups, the shipping firms and the finance houses that channel international invest-ment into the mainland, Since the handover, they have also run the Hong Kong Special Adminis-trative Region of the People's Republic of

The 6 million people of Hong Kong island, Kowloon and the New Territories also contain a definite lower class. This may be a rich place, with more wealth per head than Britain, but Hong Kong has its poor and disadvantaged. Income disparities have been growing. The criminal courts tell a litany of distress - violence set off by poverty, incest, child abuse and vicious loan-sharking. Triads flourish, and housing has been a problem for as long as anybody can

The decline of manufacturing, which has been exported across the border to China, has left tens of thousands of people without work in a society where welfare is minimal. If beggars are rare, Hong Kong has its "cagemen" living in tiny spaces; they were much visited by the inter-national media as a sideshow to the handover story. A member of the Hong Kong Council of Social Services reckons that some 640,000 people - about 10 per cent of the population live in "abject poverty", without money for

decent food and housing.
The new Chief Executive, Tung Chee-hwa. definitely belongs to the establishment. He inherited a shipping empire from his father that had included the Queen Elizabeth before it went down in Hong Kong harbour. When the empire ran into trouble a decade ago, it was bailed out with funding from China organised by another

kingpin of the establishment, Henry Fok, And when he emerged as the front-runner to become Chief Executive, there were reports that Mr Tung's appointment was opposed by leftists at China's de facto legation here because of his links

with top tycoons.
Once in office, Mr Tung quickly sketched out an across-the-class-barrier programme that promises to improve education and housing and to look after the elderly. He also seems to be ready to consider providing the kind of government help for industry that the colonial regime always shied away from - a course urged on him by some leading voices in the business community. It could all end up with a familiar paternalistic pattern, in which the establishment looks after itself and keeps the masses quiet with better living conditions. The lord in his office

tower, the people quiescent down below.
Now comes the interesting part of the picture - the one that may prove to be the key legacy from the last years of British colonialism: the men and women in the middle.

The emergence of an east-Asian middle class could be one of the most significant economic, social and political developments of the next decade. It is already a fact of life in Japan and Singapore, and is well under way elsewhere. Drive through some Malaysian towns, past the neat houses with their Proton cars in the driveways, and you could be in a steamy equivalent of Ruislip. The economist and writer Jim Rowher, in his book Asia Rising, estimates that during the first decade of the new millennium, there will be a consumer class of around I hillion people in the belt running through South Korea, Japan, coastal China and south-east Asia.
Its people will not be as rich as their equivalents in the West, hut they will make up the biggest

middle class in history.

Nowhere is this middle class more evident

than in Hong Kong, and nowhere has it felt such a tide flowing in its direction. The drive for selfimprovement has always been huge here: businessmen who have made fortunes from nothing rival film stars and canto-pop singers as popular idols. But what has happened in the Nineties is that a strong and expanding middle class has positioned itself between the rich establishment and the masses, who are no longer needed to man garment sweat-shops. Most are in business man garment sweat-snops, Most are in business or the civil service, but many others fill the professions where, increasingly, Cantonese have been taking the place of the British FILTH (Failed In London, Try Hong Kong).

hey are bright and active - and they know the value of freedom. They provide the spokespersons for democracy you saw on your television screens during the handover. Some were pressing for the extension of democracy well before Chris Patten headed this way in 1992. They made the most of what he offered ow that he is gone and the elected legislature has been dissolved, the next elections will be held on a playing field tilted against them.

Some have put their heads down, concentrating on making money, and seeing no con-nection between political freedom and their freedom to move ahead. Given what has happened in Hong Kong, that is entirely understandable: it is presumptuous to ask people to stick their necks out when there are so many uncertainties in the air. Getting on with business behind sheltering walls has been a Chinese tradition ever since the days when you made sure you kept your wealth well concealed from the

imperial tax-collecter. But there can be little doubt of the link between political democracy and the wider freedoms that the middle class has always used to exert its influence in growing societies. If that Post

link is continued out of the last years of colonialism, a vital element in the future of Hong party. Kong will have been forged. Without it, the Special Administrative Region will take at least one Kong step backwards; with it. Hong Kong has that much stronger a chance of becoming an even celebrating more extraordinary place in the years ahead.

the colony's The articulateness and attractiveness to the handover in international media of the democratic middle Kowloon class will be one card in its favour; more signif-Photograph icant is the central role its members play in making Hong Kong work. The establishment may be David Rose promoting the virtues of Chinese values, but it should know the importance of these Chinese professionals with international characteristics in ensuring that Hong Kong maintains the qualities that have made it such a success.

In time, this would mean a tussle for power between the class that has presided over the establishment of the Special Administrative Region and the rising sector of society as it aspires for greater influence and a bigger slice of the cake - just as the British middle class did last century. Some democratic politicians are already positioning themselves for such a

The key relationship for Hong Kong will be with Peking; but beneath that another dynamic will be at play. This will determine whether Hong Kong will become just another Chinese city or whether it will remain the stage for a social, economic, political and professional interplay that gives democracy, and the other freedoms of life, a much firmer footing than anybody would have thought possible when the People's Liberation Army moved into its new hases on 1.
July and the elected legislators were relegated to the gallery.

The writer is editor of the South China Morning

A FEAST OF NEW STORIES AND PURMSE

INCLUDING

JOHN UPDIKE ON THE BOOKS IN HIS LIFE **JEANETTE** WINTERSON'S 24-HOUR DOC ALAIN DE BOTTON ON LEAVING YOUR LOVER WILLIAM BOYD

IN FRANCE



PLUS JIM CRACE BHARATI **MUKHERJEE** JULIE MYERSON BLAKE MORRISON ALICE OSWALD

CANDIA MCWILLIAM TOBIAS HILL

IN THIS WEEK'S SUNDAY REVIEW

he oracle at Delphi says, "Know thyself." I say, "If I did, I'd run away." I'm running now. A really sickening self-discovery: I need to be liked. This sad posture puts me into the Pantheon of Pathos, along with actors, politicians and others who don't understand that desperation is not sexy and neediness is not a turn-on. Think of Sally Field blurting out her Oscar acceptance speech, You like me, you really like me!" in a pitch only dogs can hear. Lis-ten to Barbra Streisand belting out, "People, people who need people ...
are the luckiest people in the world."
No they're not. They're pathetic. I

know because I am one. The nauseating drive to he liked is embedded in us Yanks at an early age. At school, popularity was more valuable than learning something. Being a cheerleader was praiseworthy in a way that earning great marks in trigonometry was not.

Popularity, a vital element in America's dumbing-down process, is alien to most Brits. They prefer to acquire a "reputation", more solid and long-last-ing than the floppy, please-scratch-my-tummy helplessness of "likeability".

I used to look in the mirror and say with the confidence of someone who has read too many self-help books, "People like you. Children and animals like you. Work on those traffic wardens, kid,

and you've got it made...'

It's all hogwash. The scales began to fall from my eyes when my boyfriend

agreed to baby-sit his ex-dog. I've always been liked by other species. You're a good person if animals like you: they still have fully functioning rotten-person detectors intact. This Stalag 13-styled canine, however, ignored me completely. Not even a salutary sniff. Hurt and insulted. I ached for him to do something wrong. You can't smack a dog for impudence - not one that

resembles a pony with fangs.
Jealousy plays a part here, of course.
Going out for a walk with the boyfriend and his furry moose is like trying to squeeze between Tom Cruise and Dustin Hoffman in Rain Man. The dog's so autistic that I could wear a meat

helmet and still go unnoticed.
Finally, I decide to sprint away from man and bound in hopes that one of them will at least chase me a little - anything for attention. Running as quickly as I can, I am delighted when his big doggy paws claw at the back of my shoes. I trip. I fall. Relief at missing a metal bollard is soon replaced by a mild state of shock. Along with two bashed knees, two bruised shoulders, an unhappy chin, temporary blindness in one eye and smashed fingers in my right hand, I'm OK. Really. The dog likes me. He

really likes me. To buck myself up and rebuild my vanity. I decide to call a new acquaintance, the artist Adrian George, Adrian, who is based in London and Paris, is one of this generation's best artists, with works in the V&A and the National Por-

trait Gallery. Flooded with commissions and with a new show in the works, I blanch at the thought of troubling him. But I think we're on good terms. When he answers the doorbell at his atelier, I always ask, "Is this Britain's most famous living artist?" He never answers:

he just huzzes me m. Having been a guest at his flat in Paris and spending some considerable time with the man, I reckon I'm in a good position to ask for a favour. Lusting after his drawings especially. I fancy a portrait of myself. I know I should ask him for a quick sketch of my boyfriend and that dog but, still limping from the canine crash, I don't feel generous. Nothing would please me more than to hang a hunch of Adrian George pencil-strokes

that look like me on my wall. At 53, George has a youthful, play-ful air about him. This gives me hope that he'll take pity and draw me as flat-teringly as possible. I know from mutual friends that he often draws people he likes. He has sketched the likes of Paul Bowles, William Golding and Arthur C Clarke, and I know how women often commission him to draw them in the nude. George once told me that a lot of women feel that being drawn in the raw

is romantic. "To be observed but not touched, to have a kind of unwavering attention focused on them for several hours at a time, where else can they find that?"

That's exactly what I need. Unwaver-ing attention. Vanity, thy name is Karen.

Dialling his number, I'm rather excited. This could salvage my otherwise miserable week and it would be nice to yammer with his girlfriend and son. too, while I'm there. The phone rings a few times and I hear the teasing, gravelly voice of Adrian at the other end.

The Court of

"Adrian? It's Karen Krizanovich here. How are you? I was wondering if you had the time to, er, draw me some time this week. Not in the nude, I don't think - it's a bit breezy. I know it's a lot to ask

but..." I'm stammering.
"No," he says, and puts the phone down. No goodbyc, nothing. Stunned, I quickly dial a few friends who know him. "Well." says one, "he is moody. Artistic temperament and all that." Another tries to quell the rejection by saying. "He's a harsh judge sometimes." One doesn't spare me an inch: "He's whore-proof, my dear." (What the beck does that mean?) Yet

another mutual friend returns my call and ndds, "The man only draws people he likes. He turns down commissions when he doesn't mesh with his subject." Finally, an American friend sheds some light on George's rude reaction.

"Did you commission him?"

"Try offering money next time," the American suggests. "Pound sterling is more valuable than popularity. We're not in Kansas any more.

little dog too.

Well, you can go to Oz. You and your

peer pressure

I am writing to ask you to consider me for the position of lord (life division)



aaronovitch

ear Mr Blair, I gather from newspaper reports that you are looking for new peers of the realm, and I am writing to ask you to consider me for the position of lord (life division). Please excuse the impertinence of this direct approach; in normal circumstances I should have communicated with your director of personnel, but 1 am told that – as a dynamic chief executive - you are handling these appointments

Why do I wish to become a lord? It most certainly is not for the pageantry and the fancy dress, although they are important. While I quite agree with you about the need to recognise certain ancient customs for the sake of continuity, I also agree with the emphasis you have placed oo informality and innovation. Nor does my application owe anything to the desire to have a title on my letterhead which will impress my bank and gel me upgraded to club class on ong-haul flights. Though Lord Aarooovitch of Dartmouth Park (my preferred comenclature) does have a ring to it, it plays no part either, in my desire to enter the second chamber.

The frage from the second of t

No. Mr Blair. It is my wish to serve that prompts this letter. I want to deploy whatever talents I may possess to the benefit of the British people and - if I may say so - to the furtherance of what I am told is now called

"The Blair Project". But why me? I am not, after all, a member of the Labour Party. But some of your other appointments suggest an awareness (almost a prescience) that those most committed to the "Project" are likely never to have belonged to the party itself. In addition, the vast majority of Labour people of any calibre will now be in the Commons anyway. Frankly (I hope I may speak frankly) nnly the dregs, rejects and has-beens failed to get seats in your wonderful victory on 1 May. True, Roy Hattersley will obviously get one of the Lords jobs, but I am not telling you anything you don't know when I say that this may be a mixed blessing.

(for a lord). I am one of the few former presidents of the National Union of Students who is not an MP, but I have no reason to think that I am any less talented than the others. My journalistic experience is extensive-ish and I am familiar with the world of politics, albeit from the other side of the divide. 1 have often appeared on radio and television, including one recent spot on the Today programme, which friends told me was a great success. I like to think that I am loyal and presentable (my taste in ties is not dissimilar to your own, and I am prepared to lose a hit of weight if you think it desirable). I own no shares in BP, but am willing to

huy some if this helps. Most important, however, is my appreciation of the task that you are attempting to accomplish. You would be guaranteed my support on virtually all aspects of the Government's programme (though I do wonder whether independence for Scotland is not a preferable option to mere devolution - at least from the English point of view). Finally, though not a Christian myself (I am a Zoroastrian), I understand the deep need for a spiritual and moral dimension in both public and private life. So be assured that, whatever the temptations, I shall be keeping my hands to myself?

I am available for interview at any time, except for two weeks at the end of August when my family and I will be taking a holiday in Tuscany. (Who knows, perhaps we may bump into each other!) In the meantime, should you wish to take up my references please contact Andrew Marr, editor of The Independent, who will attest to my professional competence (he is actively encouraging this application), or my GP Dr Marlene Blatt, who will confirm that Prozac has almost completely dealt with the depression that led to the "flashing" incident on Hampstead Heath. My old headmaster, alas, is long

For further clarification please do not hesitate to get in touch yourself, or through Alastair Campbell. Yours in

Yes, Prime Minister ... oh yes, yes, yes

'I was all predictable, of course. After the election, the euphoria. Unbounded joy, grateful congratulations round. And oow Tony Blair's pack-drilled regiment of ador-ing new MPs is settling down to a comfortable life of unmitigated sycophancy.

An unfair judgement, per-haps. But the feeling rises in the gorge persistently as Parliament increasingly becomes a lazy place where members scratch ministers' backs in return for a

one Labour member, the Peterborough MP Helen Brinton, has even inspired an eponymous measure of creepiness on a scale of one to 10, with one "Brinton" marking a mild compliment and 10 signifying sheer, oily, repulsive self-abasement.

With the Tory party still barely forming an opposition, the once-fractious House of Commons is becoming a pale, somnolent shadow of its former self. Take, for example this incisive contributino at Prime Minister's Questions the other week from Martyn Jones, the member for Clwyd South: 'May I congratulate my Right Honourable Friend on his magnificent speech on the environment in New York?' Bowling not so much a long hop as a slow roll-in with a soft fuzzy-felt ball, Mr Jones went on to ask Mr Blair if he would implement the action plan produced at the Cairo conference

on population growth.

"My Right Honourable Friend is right in the concern that he raises," the Prime Minister replied. (This is code for "well done Mart, you got the whips' instructions word for word". See also, "I would like to thank my Right Honourable Friend for raising this crucial point": "I can confirm the truth of everything my RHF says.") Mr Blair then went on - surprise, surprise - to reveal that the Government fully supported the Cairo plan. In fact, he added, the Government spent £70m a year on support for family planning. Is it not impressive that the Prime Min-ister is able to pluck such a fig-

ure out of the air? There has been speculation that the "creep of the day" fea-ture in *The Independent*'s round-up of Prime Minister's Questions should be replaced instead with a head-count of the worst offenders, so hard is it to pick out just one from myriad candidates.

Just listen to Stuart Bell, MP for Middlesbrough, speak-ing on 21 May: "Having introduced a Queen's Speech with 26 Bills, much to the delight of the public ... can the Prime Minister tell the House whal be proposes to do for an encore?" Or Patricia Hewitt, MP for Leicester East, on Budget day: "Does my RHF agree ... that

millions of families, who have



The once-fractious Commons is now a place where sycophantic members scratch ministers' backs in return for a compliment

been struggling to pay more managed to nail the Conserthan 20 tax rises imposed upon them by the Conservatives, will be hoping in this after-noon's Budget for a cut in VAT on fuel ...?"

There seems to he some sort of game going on, in which Labour backbenchers vie to produce a question so laden with possibilities that the Prime Minister is able to spout his entire election manifesto and then for an encore to have a serious dig at the previous Tory

government.

A classic of the genre was delivered on 11 June by John Home Rohertson, memher for East Lothian. In a ramhling question on poverty, he

vatives as the guilty men before ending with a simple hut elegant: What will the new Labour government do to Exquisite sluff. make things better for people on low incomes?" Mr Blair, in

response, embarked on a veritable panoply, which included Sir Donald Acheson's review of health inequality, the windfall tax, tackling youth and long-term unemployment, the minimum wage, the Government's welfare-towork programme and even the need to get single parents hack to work. And he managed to get in a swipe at the last regime for burying the It is not just Prime Minister's

Questions that is suffering, either. Day after day, Labour backbenchers get up in debates 10 make long. Tory-blocking contributions. They allow the minister on the front bench to doze a little, safe in the knowledge that all that will be required in response will be a few congratulatory platitudes These speeches are marked

by stock phrases, presumably supplied in the new members freshers' packs during the first week of the new administration. The words "zero tolerance" are ohligatory in any Black report on the problem contribution on crime; "cru-

just after il came to power. sade" must appear in any helpful speech on education; and

the phrase "the many, not the

few" in just about everything. Take, for instance, Joan Walley, introducing a dehate on GCSE results in her Stoke on Trent North constituency: "l, too, want to make education a crusade ... During the tenure of the previous government, we have seen the few.

not the many, receive resources for education provision."

Alan Howarth, the minister concerned, had little difficulty in composing his reply; "I warmly congratulate my honourable friend on securing the debate. and on making the case for her constituents with eloquence. passion and depth of knowledge, and with the commitment that her constituents appreciate

"And so it went on. The phenomenon is not just confined to the new members or to the faithful either. The whips have recently been futsome in their praise of some of the older hands who, promoted to the most junior ministerial rank as Parliamentary Private Secretaries, have thrown themselves into the job with great termur.

Deserving of honourable mention in this respect is Alice Mahon, long-term campaigner on a wide range of issues, who has become PPS to Chris Smith, the Heritage Secretary, Although not in the same category as the docile ranks who bob up and down helpfully at question time, she has certainly taken on her new mantle well. Her name still appears on the order paper beside motions on land-mines and Indonesia, but she has other duties, too,

The other week, just before the Government announced its support for the millennium dome. 50 MPs, mostly Labour, signed a motion saying it should be scrapped. Then, 10 days later, another appeared helow it, congratulating the Government on its sterling effort to include the whole country in the celebration. Although Ms Mahon was not listed as nne of the sponsors. she was dispatched to collect signatures for it on behalf of the Government's cause. Despite her efforts, only 35 MPs signed this motion.

Much of this used to go on under the last government, of course, but the scale of it seems oppressive nowadays. A small band of Labour resisters is emerging, consisting of old stone and Jeremy Corhyn along with some oew arrivals, including John McDonnell. member for Hayes and Harlington. They will have their work cut out, though, as they battle to cut through the tide of complacency which is sweeping Westminster.

This week Peter Mandelson examined the phenomenon in the Fabian Review, "I'm not talking about an Orwellian regime," he wrote. Actually, Peter, it was you who brought the subject up.

I'm sorry, they're still unspeakable

Countryside campaigners are offensive when they bang on about minority rights, says Trevor Phillips

t would have been fine if they'd just stuck to the defence of fox-hunting. I don't hunt, but would like to he tolerant. Anyway, like the majority of citizens I'm too husy to feel strongly about things that don't affect me directly, so I about things that don't affect me directly, so I elect people to worry about that stuff for me. However, the countryside campaigners this week made two tactical errors. First they came to town and held up the traffic, which was a pain; and then they decided to base their arguments on principles of which they know little, and for which they hitherto have cared not at all. If their aim was to win support from the urban majority, they blew it with me. iry, they blew it with me.

Dou'l get me wrong. I am for the countryside. I listen to *The Archers* assiduously. I am lucky enough to he able in spend many weeks of the year in a farming area, and even contribute by way of local taxes to the upkeep of that com-munity. More important, perhaps, though born a townic I spent most of my childhood as close to nature as you can get, in a tiny village, with chickens and turkeys in the yard. Until I was seven years old, I did not experience the special pleasure of hot running water, I did not know what an inside toilet was: and anyone who has over been into a pre-septic tank cesspil (ic. one without a water-closet) will understand just how natural life can become when you spend time in close proximity to your own bodily waste.

None of this took place in England, granted; but if you've lived in a pre-industrial society you can be torgiven for feeling slightly irritated by the claims of the countryside lobby. The English countryside is anything but natural. For the best part of 1,000 years it has been tended, tilled and teused into a shape congenial to man. Few genuine wildernesses remain in England, and every acre is numinged with as much care and attention as any stately home. Seen from the perspective of tropical rain-forest, the New Mexico desert or the Canadian tundra, say, the idea that the English countryside represents an untouched idyll is laughable. And a modern farm, full of



Against this background, the patronising tone of some of the countryside campaign's leaders is, to say the least, annoying. But they become seriously offensive when they bang on about the rights of minorities to preserve their special cultures. The case is that a ban on fox-hunting represents an attack on an essential part of a special tradition. The sheer hrass neck of this claim lakes the breath away. Are these people seriously suggesting that the right of a few people to chase after an animal is in any way comparable to the right of a religious minority to practise its faith or its rituals? Is a fox-hunting meet to be put on a par with the Jewish sahbath? Or hare-coursing equated to Muslim prayers? This is the sort of stuff you find at the bottom of your cesspit.

Thursday's rally was graced by several celebriues. Not all of them are complete strangers to principle. No one could criticise Lord Steel, for example; his commitment to the rights of all kinds of minorities is unimpeachable. But what on earth is he doing in company with Nicholas Soames.
Tiggy Legge-Bourke, Sebastian Coe, Lady Mal-laileu and Lord and Lady Lloyd-Webber? What have they ever had to say before about the rights

expensive and complicated machinery, is little more than a factory with fields instead of floors.

of minorities? And do they geouicely think that this is the most important such cause to engage this is the most important such cause to engage their attention and largesse in Britain? Perhaps they need to pay a visit to some urban districts just a few miles from their London homes -Tower Hamlets, or Hackney, for example - in order to see what a genuine struggle to preserve the integrity of minority communities looks like.

The countryside campaigners are not just arrogant. They are mept in the mode of their protest. Instead of organising a demonstration in their own territory, they decided to cheese off London. I was caught in their traffic hold-up. Normally, I'd accept that this is part of urban life. But there is something not quite right about people who want you to understand their problems travelling hundreds of miles just to get in your way. And since four out of five of us are basically urban dwellers, it looks like poor tacties to me. As we sat waiting for the marchers to pass, our attention was drawn to the fact that we townies are bankrolling country people by about £500 per household per year. It appears we'll never understand why we're shelling out this cash, because we can't understand the rural culture; but it may have something to do with supporting practices we don't like. Not a persuasive case, I'm afraid.

The case becomes even less impressive when you learn that many farmers won't allow hunting on their land, in spite of the claims that it is an essential aspect of country life. According to a survey commissioned by the International Federation for Animal Welfare, 57 per cent of country people don't believe that hunting works as a samulation country. The companioners claim that population control. The campaigners claim that the sport is no longer the preserve of toffs and that many ordinary people hunt: they can afford to do so because they look after their own horses and dogs. If that's so, their other argument, that a ban will cost jobs, looks rather feeble.

Thus it comes down to the question of whether the distress caused to the hunted out-weighs the pleasure afforded to the hunter. I don't know the answer to that question for sure. But I do know that fewer than six generations back, some of the ancestors of those who defend the hunt today would have said airily that it mattered little what they did to my ancestors: people like us were not capable of feelings of pain and distress, being little better than animals.

That alone puts me on the side of the animals. Perhaps we should remember that practices that look essential to loday's culture may not appear so in the light of history. For example, until now American space vehicles have been named by officials, who usually chose ancient gods - Apollo, Saturn and so forth. By contrast. the name of the little huggy that ventured across the Martian surface was chosen through an international essay competition. The winner, a 15-year-old American, Valerie Ambryce, chose a real-life woman for her nomination - the doughty anti-slavery and women's rights cam-paigner of the 19th century, Sojourner Truth, She was born into a rural tradition of slavery which millions fought to preserve, claiming that it was their right to practise this aspect of their culture. Sojourner played a major part in persuading America that this particular tradition's time had

passed. The countryside campaigners would do well to learn this lesson.



business & cit

BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

FINANCIAL JOURNAL
OF THE YEAR

BT urged to renegotiate \$20bn merger

British Telecom was under mounting pressure last night to renegotiate its \$20bn (£11.8bn) takeover of MCI or pull out of the deal altogether after the shock profits warning from the long-distance US telephone op-

As the City digested the scale of MCI's problems, the BT share price plummeted by nearly 8 per cent wiping £2.35bn from its market value and prompting BT's chief executive Sir Peter Bonfield to embark on a series of emergency briefings

with institutional shareholders. Sir Peter said that although be was "surprised and a bit disappointed" at the suddenness of MCTs profits warning, it was premature to say whether BT would now insist on renegonating the

terms of the merger. However, there was little doubt in the City that the news had dealt a severe blow to BT's credibility and the prospects for Concert, the £36bn group that will be created through the takeover of MC1.

the deal would have to be renegotiated at least while James Dodd, telecoms analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson and a long-standing critic of the merger said BT should scrap the takeover altogether and use the money to fund a share buyback.

If BT pulls out it would face a penalty payment of \$150m-\$450m under a poison pill clause in the agreement. But Mr Dodd said: "BT should pull out. Spend-ing \$150m to save \$20bn is the best investment it could make."

MCI warned on Thursday night that losses this year on its move into the local US telephone market were likely to reach \$800m - double the level previously forecast - and could be even higher in 1998, the year in which it had been budgeting break-even. MCI's attempt to conquer the domestic market in competition with the regional Bell operating companies, is likely to result in losses being \$1.7bn more than expected.

A number of large shareholders were askance that BT and MCI could have been un-

British Telecom

A number of institutions said aware of the scale of the loss-te deal would have to be renedeal for nearly a year and just two months before they expect to get final approval for the merger from ÚS regulators.

The terms of the merger have to be renegotiated now, this is such a significant event that the two companies have got to sit down and talk about what an appropriate value is because that value has clearly changed," said one institutional investor.

"It looks like all the earnings growth potential of Concert has disappeared for the next two 10 three years. That is a long time to expect shareholder to put up with earnings dilution of that type."

There was also undisguised anger that investors were not put in the picture at the time when BT and MCI were getting shareholder approvals for the merg-er. "We are very disappointed," said one institution, You would have though the due diligence would have pulled some of this into the open and that BT could have shared it with investors at the time they were voting the

resterday's movement



Happier times: Sir Peter Bonfield of BT (right) and Gerald Taylor, chief executive of MCI, at the merger announcement

deal through, MCI's move into local telephony is the major growth strategy for Concert over the next few years and yet no-one seems to have spotted the problems. What on earth has

The abolition of dividend tax credits in the Budget will cost BT £150m to £200m a year in pre-tax profits by forcing it to pay more money into

the company pension fund, it emerged yesterday, writes Michael Harrison.

This is one of the biggest hits that any UK corporation will face as a side effect of the Chan-

cellor's decisinn to scrap tax credits for gross

funds such as pension funds.

The BT pension fund, which has assets of £20bn and nearly 370,000 members, had a £600m

surplus at the end of 1996 based on the last ac-

Rnbert Brace, BT's finance director, said yes-

Sir Peter said BT had only become aware of the increased losses on Wednesday night when he attended an MCI board

At that meeting a collective decision was taken by the MCI board to press ahead with its domestic strategy despite the inmeeting in the US along with two other BT directors, Sir Col-in Marshall and Keith Oates. creased investment and losses it would entail. Sir Peter then re-ported back to a meeting of the creased investment and losses it

terday that as a result of a new valuation now

being carried out by its actuaries Watson Wy-

nancial year and beyond and also increased cash

att. the fand was likely to slip into deficit,

BT board on Thursday. The BT board, however, refused to endorse the strategy decided by the MCl board and is now assessing whether so much extra money should be committed or whether there is a better way of helping MCI attack the domestic mar-Tax credits blow will cost £200m ket, using BT's experience.

BT has cancelled leave for a number of senior executives and sent a specialist team to the US to analysis MCI's figures. "There is going to be a lot of very tough talking and a lot of eyeballing," said one observer. BT and MCI blamed the This would result in a higher charge against BT's profit and loss account in the current fi-

payments into the pension fund over time. higher losses on anti-competi-Of the fund's 370,000 members, 119,000 are tive practices by the local Bells contributing. At present the company puts in which had slowed up MCI's on-9.5 per cent of gross earnings while employees try into the local market and contribute 6 per cent. But under the terms of forced it to increase spending the scheme, members' contributions do not on capital equipment, marketchange, meaning that BT has to make good any ing and customer support.

Comment, page 21

Sterling breaks through DM3 barrier

Diane Coyle Economics Editor

The pound broke the DM3 barrier yesterday afternoon, in the aftermath of the Bank of England's decision this week to increase interest rates for the third time in three months.

It was the highest level ster-ling has attained for more than six years. While it eventually ended a whisker under DM3 yesterday, analysts were pre-dicting the prospect of further interest rate rises would send it

much higher next week. Sterling's index against a bas-ket of other currencies climbed by 1.1 points to 104.9.

The buoyant mood spread to the stock market, dampened only by a sharp 7.7 per cent fall in BT's share price. The FTSE 100 index gained more than 31 points to close at 4,799 yesterday, with BT taking about 15 points off the index. Shares sheltered from the strong pound, especially retailers and banks, fared particularly well.

A strong performance across the Atlantic boosted both the pound and shares. By the time trading closed in London, the Dow Jones index looked to be heading for the 8,000 level. It

was 33 points up at 7,919.78. The dollar too reached its highest level against the German mark for six years, aided by a combination of more good news on the US economy and an uninspiring German budget.

"The scale of this massive move in sterling has caught everyone by surprise given that there was no news during the day. It is driven by interest rate expectations," said Michael Lewis at Deutsche Morgan

Robin Marshall, chief economist at Chase, said: "The trouhie with the Bank of England moving interest fates in short steps is that it leaves everyone looking forward to the next

one. The tactics are wrong." Figures due next week could fuel the currency market's love affair with sterling if, as expected, they continue to paint a picture of a very huoyant economy.

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Bronwyn Curtis, chief economist at Nomura, said the parallels with the late 1980s - the last time the pound stayed above DM3 for any length of time - were striking.

"It is nonsense to say the pound can go up for ever, but it could stay high until either the trade gap starts getting wider or it looks as though interest rates are at their peak," she said.

Names of Hambro staff facing action revealed

tuarial valuation...

Tom Stevenson Financial Editor

The names of Hambros emplovees facing possible discilinary action in the wake of the failed bid for the Co-op emerged yesterday. It can also be revealed that the three corporate financiers sacked this week by the bank lost their jobs without being shown the report that condemned them.

Nigel Pantling, Peter Large and Andrew Salmon were allowed to defend themselves role in advising Andrew Regan on his aborted £1.2bn hid for the

Hambros said on Thursday it was unable to publish for legal reasons, has also been kept from the senior corporate finance and hanking staff who kept their jobs but face possible

Co-operative Wholesale Society. The secret report, which

disciplinary action by the bank. The members of the Hamhros corporate finance and

banking teams who face possible internal disciplinary action

were not shown the findings of emerged yesterday. Working the final report into Hambro's in corporate finance with Peter Large and Andrew Salmon, both of whom were directors, was assistant director Geoff Austin. They were supported on the bid by Gerry Lyuch, a director of Hambros banking di-

> assistant director. Also involved in advising Andrew Regan and his takeover vehicle Galileo was Roger Barnes. a director of Hambros and a former head of supervision at the Bank of England. He is understood to have made represen-

vision, and Alan Archer,

tations to the Bank of England over the possible sale to Allied Irish Bank of the Co-operative Bank in the event of the hid for the CWS being successful.

Other names of key professionals advising Galileo to have emerged yesterday included Kevin Dunn and Margaret Moore, both partners at Travers Smith Braithwaite, the firm of solicitors. They worked with Nigel Campion Smith, the partner at the firm who resigned last Monday to reduce the "cmbarrassment" the affair had

Travers Smith's managing partner Alasdair Douglas refused to say whether further resignations would follow the departure of Mr Campion Smith nor whether he was leaving as a result of the findings of

the Norton Rose report. The report from the Norton Rose law firm has been seen only by the directors of Ham-bros, the hank's publicly quot-ed holding company, fuelling suspicions that it is highly critical of senior staff. Its contents. shrouded in secrecy thanks to the terms of the Banking Act under which it was conducted, which more senior executives have been passed on to the Bank of England and the Securities and Futures Authority. The two regulators are ex-

pected to focus on the flow of information from these teams of advisers to senior staff at Hambros Bank, including its chairman Sir Chips Keswick who takes over shortly from Lord Hambro as chairman of the bank's publicly quoted holding company.

The fact that Hambros is unable for legal reasons to publish the Norton Rose report

leaves unclear the extent to

than Mr Pantling were involved. Senior bankers said yesterday, however, that in problem cases such as the CWS affair it would be extremely unlikely that decisions would be taken solely within a bank's corporate

The CWS affair has caused Hambros enormous reputational damage, according to rivals. Although existing clients are understood to have stood by the bank, it is thought to be struggling to attract new clients in the wake of the affair.

finance division.

Market Report, page 22 Beckett lifts bar to GEC

SFA investigates share price swings in Display IT

The Securities and Futures Authority is looking at violent swings in the share price of Display IT. an on-line information company traded on OFEX, which phummeted 75p yesterday to 145p. The shares stood stood at 810p earlier this year.

The share price fall vesterday came just 48 hours after College Hill resigned as public relations, advisors to Display IT. Alex Sandherg, head of College Hill, said resterday that the decision had been taken because the compamy had refused to reveal who twined Alsina, a Luxembourgbased associate of Display II

"We asked Display IT for the information and we didn't get it. in the absence of that information, we were unable to act for them," said Mr Sandberg. Display IT was launched by Pe-

to provide clients with existing online information from the likes of Reuters and other providers by accessing it over the Internet, at a fraction of the cost.

Yesterday the company issued a statement on the OFEX bulletin board saying that it expect-ed to report its audited interim results for the period to 30 June 1997 "on or about 15 August." It said its results are currently being audited by Deloitte & Touche. A spokesman for the SFA said yesterday: "We have been looking at movements in the price of

Display IT stock. We have been talking to some participants in the market, including brokers. We wouldn't like to suggest at this stage whether [we have launched] any formal investigation. "We are at a very preliminary stage, we're deciding what's necessary When asked whether the SFA

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Source: FT Information

certed bear raid on Display IT. the spokesman said: "We have to hold judgement until we get the information we need to make an

"If there has been market manipulation - and I'm not sugting that that is the case -then the SIB might be the ones to look into this." Barry Hocken, a member of JP

Jenkins, the broker that runs OFEX, said that Display IT's share price had plummeted because "it would appear to be a concerted bear raid by 'Evel Knievel', who writes a column in one of the Sunday newspapers -he has been destroying the share

This was a reference to Simon Caulkwell, a well known share trader, who confirmed yesterday that he had a short position in Display IT shares.

Further snub for LVMH chief in takeover fight

Andrew Yates

Drinks groups Grand Metropolitan and Guinness yesterday announced a large shake-up of their senior management teams in the wake of their proposed

£24bn merger. The move is an apparent snub to Bernard Arnault, the head of the French luxury good group, LVMH, who is due to send a letter to GrandMet and Guinness in the middle of next week outlining alternative proposals to merge the spirits di-visions of all three companies to form an independent quot-

ed group.

There is speculation in the stock market that Mr Arnault is considering putting a compromise proposal to Grand-Met and Guinness which would involve splitting its Moet Hennessy champagne and fine wines businesses into two sep-

arate nperations, It is under-stood that LVMH would then propose to buy back Guinness's 34 per cent stake in Moet, while Guinness would purchase the outstanding 66 per cent of Hennessy it does not already own giving it full control of the brandy business and leaving LVMH with the champagne.

Guinness and GrandMet showed they were confident a merger would go ahead and be cleared by competition an-thorities around the world by appointing 32 senior executive intments to the new group, GMG Brands. But both sides refused to say who or how many top executives would have to leave the group. Analysts believe as many as 30 top management jobs could be at risk. Gerald Corbett, GrandMet's

finance director, is the highest profile departure announced

Michael Harrison

GEC's hopes of spearheading the consolidation of the European defence electronics industry were further bolstered yesterday after the Government released the group from undertakings that prevented it from buying Siemens Defence.

Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said she had taken the decision on the advice of the director-general of Fair Trading in light of the changing circumstances in the defence industry.

Analysis interrupted the move as not only freeing GEC to bid for Siemens Defence, which consists mainly of the former Plessey radar and military communications businesses, but also as a sign the Government might be more relaxed about defence mergers involving UK firms.

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bid for Siemens Defence On Thursday/GEC announced a deal to merge part of its Marconi defence electronics division with those of Finmeccanica, the Italian state-controlled holding company. The deal came two days after GEC's

> overhaul to catapult Marconi up the ranks of world defence contractors through a combination of mergers and takeovers. GEC is one of four bidders interested in buying Siemens Defence. The other three are British Aerospace, Thomson-CSF of France and Alcatel Alsthom, which is also French.

new managing director George Simpson unveiled a strategic

Siemens Defence was created out of the hreak-up hid for Plessey by GEC and Siemens in 1989. At the time, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission voiced concerns about the impact of the deal on competition for defence radar and military communications orders and recommended GEC should not be allowed a stake in or any control over the Plessey divisions. Mrs Beckett said that it was oo longer appropriate to main-

tain the restrictions although she

stressed her decision should not

be seen as prejudging any views

the UK or European competi-

tion authorities might take.

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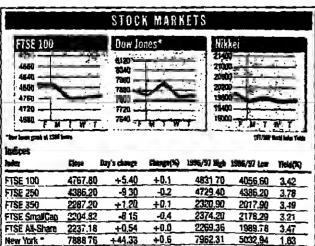
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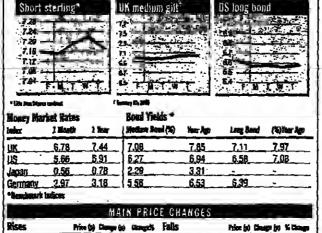


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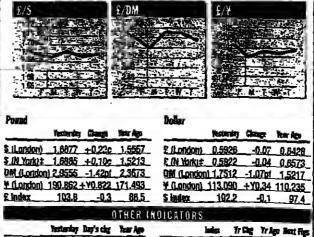


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JEREMY WARNER

'How it was that BT's own due diligence and researches failed to reveal these things is one issue. It certainly beggars belief that the first BT directors knew about all this was

when they attended an

MCI board meeting

last Wednesday

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Should BT now trash the MCI acquisition?

When things go wrong for a company, they tend to do so in spades. Already hit by the windfall profit tax and the abolition of tax credits on dividends. BT now finds itself in dire straits over its yet to be consummated merger with MCI of the US. Sir Iain Vallance and his chief executive, Sir Peter Bonfield, will find it mighty hard to extricate themselves from this one without loss of value, as the precipitous fall in BT's share price already

bluntly predicts. The boltom line is that MCI's already high-risk plunge into the newly deregulated local US telecoms market is going to cost at least \$1.2bo more over the next two years than everyone thought, this at a time when growth in MCI's core revenue earning long distance market is beginning to taper off with a speed nobody anticipated when the terms of this deal were struck.

How it was that BT's own due diligence and recease feeled to reveal these things.

and researches failed to reveal these things is one issue. It certainly beggars belief that the first BT directors knew about all this was when they atteoded ao MCI board meeting last Wednesday. You might have thought they would have had their ears rather closer to the ground than that. The more important immediate question, however, is what

they are going to do about it.

MCI seems already to have made up its mind to proceed with the extra investment.

and for the time being BT is powerless to his mind, itself carries a considerable cost.

case be hard pressed to oppose MCT's plans, since they are so much a part of MCI's strategy for the future and formed such a key part of BT's sales pitch to the City.

This was a deal launched by BT on a gale of optimism and bravado, which I have to confess, I fully fell for at the time. The mindset of management in circumstances like these is to push ahead at all costs, even though the short to medium-term impact on their share price might be highly damaging. Powerful egos and ambitions depend on this deal going ahead. All the same, there is plainly no longer any question of this happening, as one seasoned institutional investor remarked yesterday, without a considerable downward renegotiation of the price.

The trouble is, MCI may not be prepared to play ball, and even if it is, it is no longer clear that MCI is the right acquisition for BT. Certainly a thorough process of re-evaluation is oeeded before proceeding any further. To go ahead after a warning like this one requires the most fundamental and searching of reappraisals. In a sense BT is bucky that US regulators have also as the process the deal ulators have taken so long to approve the deal, because at least it now gets that chance.

Pulling out entirely, something which Sir

halt the process, even if it takes the view that the big push into local telecommunications has become unecocomic, BT would in any clauses beloved of Wall Street corporate financiers. In BT's case, it means paying MCI up to \$450m in compensation should it wish to trash the deal.

must now address is whether this might none

MCI acquisition never did amount to any- was the Prime Minister saying he was going thing more than an earnings dilutive pig in a poke. How does buying into the increas-ingly competitive US domestic market further BT's aim of becoming a global husiness telecommunications service provider, it is asked. The money could be better spent on smaller bolt-on acquisitions in the husiness telecoms market, and on buy-backs and enhanced dividends. That view, though still not one I would woolly go along with, will have been much strengtheord by yesterday's

It would be wrong to talk in terms of Linsurrection yet, but certainly the City is falling out of love with the new Government quite markedly at the moment. At City lunch tables, the talk is of "unravelling", a Budget that was bad for husiness and bad for the City, and of the Chancellor going a step too far in his reforming zeal.

ably has more to do with the City revertlog to its traditional, true blue, political colours than anything else. After a period when nobody really knew what to think about Labour's landslide victory. City people are The question BTs non executive directors | beginning to find their tongues once more. and since, for a change, not everything seems the less prove the cheaper option. There is a small, though quite vocal, minority in the City which has long taken the view that the lit. I kid you not, for many, the final straw MCI acquisition name at the lit. I kid you not, for many, the final straw

to vote against fox hunting. It takes quite a leap to get from fox hunting and the problems of Northern Ireland to the Chancellor's handling of the economy, but that hasn't stopped some people making it. The Chancellor didn't do enough in the Budget to cool the consumer boom, is the general criticism. Furthermore, the abolition of tax credits oo divideods was an ill thought out piece of vindictiveness, the argument goes, whose effect will be to impose a

hidden tax oo business and clobber the City.
On the latter point, the City is probably right. But the more general observation that the Chancellor is fading the economy is not

really supported by the evidence.
It is important here to ignore what the City
is soying, which often amounts to little
more than self-interested waffle, and look

index has gone up more than 10 per cent, and despite three rises in short-term interest rates, long gilt yields have gone down. That in itself is quite a vote of confidence in what Gordon Brown is doing.

But the most powerful evidence of improved

international confidence in the British economy, and in Labour's ability to manage it, is the strength of sterling, which touched three German marks to the pound vesterday for the first time since the autumn of 1990. Admittedly, this has quite a lot to do with the fact that Britain is ahead of Germany in the husiness cycle. As a consequence, its interest rates are going up sharply at a time when Germany's are stuck at a near recessionary low point. The changing fortunes of European monetary union accentuate the position by making the pound an attractive hedge against a weak curn.

There's plainly more to it than that, however. International investors would not he piling into the pound unless they believed Britain's relative economic position had changed. So although Gordon Brown's first Budget was arguably a bad one for business in the sense that it disproportionately hit the corporate sector, the judgement of markets is that the broad fiscul and monetary framework being established by Labour is rather more healthy than what went before. It seems that the City backlash against the new instead at what it is actually doing. Since | Chancellor is rather more apparent than Labour came to power, the FTSE 100 share | real. Tally ho!

JCI to step up pressure on Lonrho

JCL despite already baving

Lonrho, valued at almost £1bn on the stock market, is believed to be in talks with Anglo Vaal, another African miner. But JCI is Intent on using its sharebolding to block that and any other future mergers. It also

Mzi Khumalo, JCI's chairman, is determined to broker a merger and is unwilling to sell the stake in Lonrho at any

The stake in Lonrho gives us a seat at the negotiation table. It makes sure that whatever they want to do they will have to come to us first," Mr Khumalo

JCI is understood to want to pusb Lonrho to speed up its plans to demerge its African trading businesses and sell its Princess luxury hotel chain. When these businesses are When these businesses are gone, and Lonrho is left as a pure mining group, then JCI of Lonrho's shares from Anglo. It is determine the stake in Ashrous group, then JCI of Lonrho's shares from Anglo.

JCI wants to marry the two groups' coal mining operations to create one of the largest coal businesses in the world. It is also keen to get hold of Lonhro's platinum assets, which would create a diversified mining group, more insulated from the damaging effects of the plunging gold price. The combined group would be listed in London as well as South Africa and so would have greater access to new capital.

Who will be in EMU? The financial markets' view

Investors to longer require such a high position for his land to the control in t

When will EMU start? The City Analysts' View.

31%

17

(84% last week) (32% last week)

The independent asked analysis from:

Mikin Zurope, Pains Wather, ABN April, IP Morgan, Destack Saloman Brothers, Boldman Sacta, 1880; Sames Comil, 1883

what probability they placed on EMU starting on time.

Probability EME starts on time:

Probability EMI is delayed:

believes it can convioce Lonrho's sharebolders that there would be a clear rationale for a merger. It is coocerned that Anglo still pulls the strings at JCI, having sold the groop to Mr Khumalo just last year. Some analysts be-

Nic Clcutti

Another poteotial stumbling block is mining rival Geneor's pre-emptive rights over Lonhro's platinum interests, which could be invoked should a merger take place.

But the European Commission is unlikely to allow Gencor to buy Lonrho's stake over fears it would have a virtual monopoly of the world's platinum market. And industry sources suggest Gencor has privately given up any hope of owning Lourho's platinum stake and will not exercise its pre-emption rights.

Mr Khumalo met Lonrbo's management team oo Thursday to discuss his proposals. But sition of a 34.9 per cent stake Lonrho refused to comment in JCI from Anglo American.

not actually own anything yet and the European Commission is still looking into the acquisition of its stake from Anglo," a Lonrho spokesman

said yesterday. Mr Khumalo is one of South Africa's fast-rising black business businessmen, A friend of Nelson Mandela, he spent 12 years as a political prisoner on South Africa's Robben Island. business world, spearheading last November's £380m acqui-

pounds to the existing £4bn

They warned earlier this week that the abolition of ACT

credits, announced on 2 July by

Gordoo Brown, the Chancellor

would mean the returns that

many insurers expected their

pension funds to achieve would

have to be scaled down,

Fears have also been raised

increasing the hill for most

that the Chancellor's ACT

statement will raise the stakes

compensation hill.

соправіез.

On his release he quickly rose to prominence in the hlack

IN BRIEF

Courtaulds and J Matthey opt for FIDs

Courtailds and Johnson Matthey announced they would be paying final dividends as a foreign income dividend, following proposals in the Budget to abolish FIDs in 1999, Courtnulds, the chemicals group, said that paying the FID would save £12m, reducing its Advanced Corporation Tax surplus to £30m, Johnson Matthey, the engineer, said it would save £5.8m and utilise some of the £31m unrelieved ACT paid in recent years, Courtaulds, which will pay a net FID of 11.95p, said that as a result of the Budget, paying a FID "would hoth give the company a cash flow benefit and, in the longer term, reduce the company's exposure to the risk that surplus ACT may not be recovered".

Smith & Nephew dampens bid rumours

Chris O'Donnell, newly installed chief executive of Smith & Nephew, was forced to dampen speculation that the healthcare company was to buy a husiness from Roche valued at \$2,4hn (£1.4hn). Mr O'Donnell bas privately said over the last few weeks that it had expressed an interest in huying DePuy, the US artificial limb maker, 84 per cent owned by the Swiss group. We said that we bave approached Roche and if DePuy hecame available we would be delighted to look at it. But there are no active talks. Roche has given us no response," said Mr O'Donnell. Analysts said Mr O'Donnell was naive to discuss the group's

Burton stores groups chief resigns

The plan to restructure and rename the Burton businesses and float off Debenhams the flagship store with its own board has claimed its first executive victim. Stuart Rose, a director of the group and chief executive of the individual store groups, Burton Menswear, Dorothy Perkins, Evans, and Principles, resigned after the board meeting on Thursday night which confirmed the restructuring plan. He is expected to get a £600,000 pay-off, He left after being offered and turning down a post in the company which will take over the remaining businesses once Debenhams bas been floated.

Merrydown to cut two directors

Merrydown, the eider and alcopops maker, is set to remove at least two of its seven directors from the board in the wake of a near 60 per cent slump in pre-tax profits to £821,260 for the year to March. Sales of Two Dogs, the alcobolic lemonade, plummeted last year as dozens of rival alcopops exploded on to the market. Richard Purdey, chairman, said: "We have not had a good year. We have overspent and under achieved. We have to cut down on cost. Two directors will probably go." Mr Purdey. who bas been with Merrydown for 32 years and was appointed its chairman in 1991, declined to say whether he would be leaving the group.

Robertson welcomes Eurofighter decision

George Robertson, Defence Secretary, welcomed the German government's decision yesterday to approve funding for production of the Eurofighter. After speaking to his German counterpart. Volker Ruehe, Mr Robertson said the decision now provides a "solid basis for planning for the production phase to proceed". He added that the Eurofighter is the "best option at the best price" to meet the UK's defence needs. "Eurofighter is also essential to the future of the European aerospace industry and will sustain thousands of highly-skilled jobs in Europe." be said.

Northern Rock prepares for flotation

Northern Rock Building Society is mailing 900,000 members en-titled to free shares from its forthcoming floration, with details of the last date, 22 August, on which they must to have minimum cash levels in their accounts to qualify for the 50tt free shares min-imum. Flotation is expected to take place on 1 October.

ICI sets price on Australian sale

The offer price of ICI's 62.7 per cent holding in ICI Australia has been set at A\$12.35 a share for international investors and A\$11.95 a share for Australian retail investors. The sale will raise an exceptional profit after tax of £475m for ICt, which will be



Andrew Yates

JC1, the first black-controlled African mining house, is poised to intensify the pressure on Lonrho to force the UK mining group into a merger.

bad its merger aspirations rebuffed, is still pushing ahead with plans to buy a 27 per cent stake in Lonrho from Anglo American, the South African mining glant.

Doubt over

Germany's

claims

on deficit

Theo Waigel, Germany's Fi-

nance Minister, yesterday out-

lined figures for the state budget

deficit of 2.25 per cent of GDP,

well below the 3 per cent target specified under the Maastricht

Treaty. However, The Indepen-

dent's panel of experts said that including the social security and regional delicits, Germany

would overshoot that target.

oil reserves hy Germany yesterday, and of shares in the

telecom privatisation, as an

indication of Chaucellor Kohl's

determination or desperation.

Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe

said: "We are sceptical that

Germany can get within spitting

distance of the targets, but the

Robert Lind of ABN Amro

said Mr Waigel's confirmation vesterday that Germany would overshoot this year's budget by DM18bu, implied an overall

deficit of 3.4 per cent. However, the Bundesbank was arguing

for a change to the criteria to

emphasise not absolute num-

bers but sustained economic

stability. "Germany sees that

Italy will make it and this is an

argument to keep them out. It's

Martin Brookes at Goldman

Sachs said: "Germany is facing

big political problems. If union

happens it will be because

politicians have won the argu-

ments, not because the eco-

all a very tricky game."

nomics are right."

Calls cost 50p pail menute

potitical will is there."

Many saw extensive selling of

Sameena Ahmad

Loohro's board.

said yesterday.

lieve Anglo is desperate to get hold of Lonhro's platinum interests by the back door. But Anglo is understood to be willing to sell its 13 per cent share-bolding in JCI and end its involvement with the group, to push the share sale through.

JCI bas also scotebed rumours that it plans to sell Lonrho's near 34 per cent stake in Ashanti Goldfields, the Ghanaian goldfield regarded as one of Lonrho's hidden jewels, to Anglo. It is determined to keep the stake in Ashanti in the

Budget adds to bill for pension mis-selling account a complicated set of tuaries believe the change could add bundreds of millions of Personal Finance Editor

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the financial regulator, yesterday warned insurance companies and inthese SIB assumptions.
A SIB spokeswoman said: dependent advisers that the cost of compensating pensions mis-selling victims would have to rise in the wake of tax

ishing new tables on how to calculate redress to policyholders in the wake of the abolition of Advanced Corporation Tax (ACT) relief for pension funds. The SIB's quarterly guid-

The SIB said it would be pub-

ance on pension compensation takes into account a range of factors likely to affect the amount companies must set aside to meet anticipated bills. Any guidance must take into

changes in the Budget.

factors, including changes in investment conditions, interest and inflation rates and anticipated returns on equities and gilts. Compensation offered by companies must be based on

"We expect that where offers are calculated in respect of cases where top-ups are offered, because reinstatement is not available. It is impossible to say exactly what difference the ACT changes will make. "For example, those who are

in the urgent category of cases to be reviewed because they are close to retirement would be switching to gilts to protect their investments. They will not be substantially affected by the ACT changes. However, independent ac-

between insurers oegonating to reinstate policyholders into

occupational pensions and the trustees of those schemes, Trustces are likely to demand higher reinstatement payments. potentially leading to more delays in the compensation process.

Christies' sales rise 15%

Chrisnes International, the British-based auction house and art specialist, said yesterday that its world-wide sales increased to £557m in the first six months of 1997, a rise of 15 per cent over the same period in 1996.

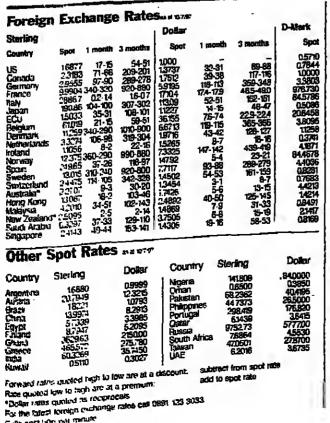
In dollar terms the rise was even higher at 23 per cent. Peter Blythe, Christies' finance director, said the fundamental reason for the sales growth was the rise in the number of wealthy people around the world.

steady growth in the mature ecocomies of the US and UK, while there has been a huge increase in demand from the Far East." Mr Blythc said. There was also the excep-

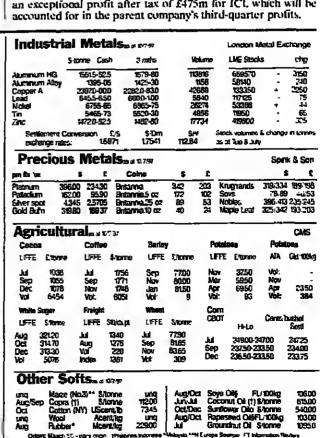
tional success of the Loeb Collection of Impressionist pictures which totalled £57.3m, he said. This New York auction saw Paul Cézanne's portrait of his wife, Madame Cézanne au fauteil jaune, go for £14,260,802. Sales growth had been steady since the low point of the re-

"We've seen a few years of cession in 1991, said Mr Blythe "The international art market teods to lag both on the way up and on the way down, he said. Christies sold no less than 75 works of art for \$1m or more in the first half of this year, compared with 59 items in the same

period last year.
Auctions through Hong Kong were doing particularly well from new wealthy entreprencurs from countries like Indonesia and Korea, Mr Blythe said. Christies' shares closed down 2р 10 293.5р.



Probability EMI never happens. **Interest Rates** US Japan Discount Discount Discount Spain Solvin Discount Spain 10-Day Repo 525% Sweden Repo (Ave) 410% Lombard Base 6.75%
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ttaly
Discount 6.25%
Netherlands 290% Bond Yields 10yr yield 1 \$.75% 7.35% 8.75% 8.25% 8.50% 5.57 6.22 6.51 5.63 6.46 6.84 Natherland Spein Raily Belgium Sweden ECU CAT 790% 825% 90% 10% Money Market Rates... 614 84 84 84 614 544 47 4 670 71 72 710 73 71 684 710 710 687 72 72 680 72 72 680 555 576 436 44 44 44 472 432 PRECION
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Gitts Index

The shares recovered an early fall, struggling, in heavy, trading, to a 2p gain at 154.5p; they were 201p on Wednesday. Then the group said it was expanding trials for Zacutex, a Share spotlight treatment for pancreatitis, which would delay any ap-

There is still a wide range of valuations. Crédit Lyonnais Laing say the shares are a sell down to 100p; BZW believe they should be sold to 125p but Lehman Brothers reckon they are a buy at 150p.

BriBio could have a difficult time; there is talk it is in the sights of two determined bear raiders, one a US fund.

The market, despite another strung display by sterling, moved confidently ahead with Footsie gaining 31.7 points to 4,799.5. Even the FTSE 250 index made headway, ending a five-day losing streak with a



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

First Leisure Corporation,

takeover stories re-appeared.

was named as the most likely

bidder, It rose 9p to 368.5p. But Bass, denied Carisberg-

Tetley and anxiously seeking a

Granada, the leisure group, led the blue-chip leader board where profits have disappointed, gained 9.5p to 316p as with a 48p (after 57p) gain to 786p. British Digital Broad-Rank, also a poor performer, casting the group it owns with Carlton Communications, was largely responsible. Granada, indulging in a round of invest-ment meetings, talked en-thusiastically about BDB's prospects and likely impact on trading. Cariton caught some of the attention, gaining

windfalls spread wider. Whitbread improved 39p to 832p and Scottish & Newcastle 32.5p to 739p. Among the re-gional groups Greene King put nn 16.5p tn 697.5p.

Eurotunnel returned after the restructuring approval -and closed off 5p lower at General Electric Co jumped

17.5p to 377p an the Gavernment's concession it could increase its Plessev involvements and its decision to go for another joint venture, a £1bn defence link with Finmeccanica, a state-owned Italian group. Dairy groups were firm, seemingly on ABN Amro

with possible target, Hammerson, up 16.5p to 477.5p. Lucas Varity, the car compunents group, fell 4p to 194p as more downgrades appeared. TI, the engineer, gained a further 12.5p tn 495p as the market grew in appreciate its

limited sterling exposure. Somerfield, the supermarket chain reporting next week. hardened 6p to 193.5p. highest since its controversial flotatinn a year ago. Profits are expected to emerge at £103m

against £86.2m. Watts, Blake Bearne, the world's largest ball clay (u's used in sanitary ware) producer, fell 10p to 405p, a 12this year and £12.8m next. The

Cash Converters, the second-hand shops chain, rose 3p to 18.5p after two executives each acquired a third of founder Brian Cumins' stake, giving each of them holdings of around 10 per cent each. The rest of the Cumins' shareholding will be placed. The company now has 375 stores in 16 countries. Since coming to market last year the shares have fallen

Taking Stock

from 31.5p. It's getting near to crunch time for Emerald Energy. In the next week or so the fate of its first Colombian drilling venture could be known. There were some suggestions the next report will be

woods pass i

II COG

deal, could be the predatur. share price, pence proval, and phase III trial data nn its hig-hope Marimastat cancer drug would not be avail-able until early 1999. Both groups have bingo and bowling interests. The brewfavourable, lifting the shares 22.1 advance to 4,408.3. ing group would find FLC, val-ued at more than £500m, the month low. Long time share-holder, Sibelco. a Belgian But BT, riding at a 501.5p Hoare Govett support. The 0.75p to 6.25p. investment house expects the peak a week ago, missed the sort of deal which would satcost of their milk to be reduced. group, recently undged its stake past 50 per cent. UBS is look-ing for WBB prafits of £11.4m The stock market has been 16.5p to 517p. Cementone could be near fun. The shock profits warnings Lehman Brothers also helped the Granada show. It pointed isfy its perceived need to put wrestling with the BriBio price its first buy, expected to be a media deal. The shares rose Northern Foods put on 7p to from its intended US merger since excitement over its pos-212.5p and Unigate 12.5p to through a significant takeover. partner, MCI, was an expensive nut the shares had under per-In what has for months been sible cancer treatment sent misdial, sending the shares crashing 37p to 440.5p. At one formed, falling from a 978.5p 501p.

British Land's £140m property sale left some wondering an exceedingly sober brewing the shares soaring last year to shares were 520p last year. peak. Analyst Fraser Ramzan said the fall was "unjustified". a remarkable 326.5p.
They drifted steadily lower sector Bass rose 19.5p to Granada time they were down 51p. 828.5p as the feelgood factor Turnover was huge - approaching 200 million shares. before falling steeply since leaving the shares cheap. The independent index FTSE 100 - Real-time 00 UK Stock Market Report 01 Anyone with a tone-dial telephone can use the service. For a detailed description independent index, including its portfolio facility; phone 0891 123 For assistance, call our helpine 0771 873 4378 (500cm - 500pm). 2 3 Arroguments
9° A 2 3 1
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10 Where would you like | 193 | 194 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 | 195 to go this weekend? Costa Rica Oil Exploration France. ?

Vant to go in the See it in Travel

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The See it in Travel

The See it in Tr or | Second Color | Seco Biking in France...? Wherever you want to go in the 'Travel & Money' every Sunday

Fulke's

Woods to pass the Troon test

The American golfing phenomenon is ideally equipped for the Open's links challenge, his rivals tell Andy Farrell

ome 35 years ago. Arnold Palmer conjured a per-formance of typical hrilhance at Troon and so helped launch the Open Championship into the modern era. It was Palmer's second consecutive victory and thousands gathered to see the charismatic American. It also ensured that the best players in the world would annually flock to experience the mysteries and the vagaries of the British seaside links.

Tiger Woods arrives at Royal froon next week as the game's latest talisman, and possibly its best player ever. "This is the first chance for people to see him in the flesh as professional," Brian Anderson, the club pro for 26 calm, while Troon, on the Ayr-

am sure there 'He [Woods] is will be a record Woods' career, launched deal with any as a three-time

US Amateur champion last weather and September, has been mesmerisany golf course ing and unmissties at the 126th

Open will be no different. The Woods Phenomenon has gone far past the sports pages, taking in controversies of various hues and fuelled by his father Earl's assertion: "Tiger will do more than any other man in history to change the course of humanity."

This was a heavy burden to place on the 21-year-old selfstyled "Cablinasian" - he is part Caucasian, part black, part oative American and part Asian - but ooe partly shouldered by endorsements totalling almost \$100m (£61m). His victory last week at the Western Open in Chicago was his sixth in 21 That means he generates lots of starts on the US Tour and took roll, and the ball flies him back in the top of the world straighter."

been achieved with what he takes the club away and he calls his "B" or "C" game. For maintains that width through-a demonstration of his "A" game out the swing. He does not

Masters victory, where he became the youngest winner, set the lowest score and won by the biggest margin. A spell of tournaments in which Woods, who has yet to miss a cut as a pro, did not contend, including the US Open where he was 19th, led to talk of a slump. All he needed was a week at home with his feet up to dispel such nonsense.

In two previous appearances at the Open as an amateur. Woods finished 68th at St Andrews in 1995, and 22nd last year at Royal Lytham, his best result to then in a pro event and significant in his decision to turn pro a month later. Conditions in Lancashire were dry and

shire coast, may present a stern-

Woods has good enough to overpowered around the world, Troon. while presenting a long-haul back nine of 3,650 - Greg Norman yards with a miserly par of

> courses more of its would-be conquerors. Tam arte quam morte is the cluh's motto, meaning 'As much by skill as by strength". Woods' length off the tee was

the dominant factor in his Masters victory. He averages more than 320 yards swinging at only 75 per cent, is 6ft 2in and

"The Holy Grail of golf is power and accuracy," said Rick Adams who, with Mark Glynn, form the Taylor Made Long Driving team. Tiger hits the ball with low spin, both backwards

This is due to his textbook Some of those wins have swing. There is width when he



Troon's armoury: The Postage Stamp par-three eighth is one of the holes where Tiger Woods (inset) will have to 'mind his p's and q's'

during the swing, it remains on the same plane. It's like a smothering of the ball. If you play a table tennis shot and you want to hit it with side spin, it is a short, choppy action. But if you want top spin, it is a long movement

Central to this is the stability Woods creates in his legs. "If you watch his legs during the swing, they are totally planted as this massive coil is going on in his upper body. The legs don't move, so he can whip his arms through at pace."

Nick Faldo, confirmed this. The only time I can create such arm-speed," he said, "is when I drive with my elbow hanging out of the car window.

But while huge hitting and inspired putting served him fine at the Masters, Troon will require more of the Mozart of the Mark Calcavecchia, describes are seeing the ball up and you

thing for Tiger will be his club selection," Anderson said, "He has to choose the right clubs to make sure he is on the fairways. He will be using a lot of irons nff the tee. The rough is very penal. It's not like Augusta, where you can hit the ball anywhere."

Greg Norman, twice an Open champion, visited Trooo last weekend. "The fairways are down to 28-32 yards." he reported. The rough is not thick all the way round, but it is there in patches and where it is, it is 10-inch long wispy grass. 1 don't care how strong you are, that grabs your shaft and the harder you try to hit it, the more it goes left. Everyone will go in it and everyone will have problems.

Norman, who set the course record with a 64 in 1989 before bouncing around on the ground being foiled in the play-off by and rolling. In the States, you look no further than his US make the arc any shallower greens. "The most important the uniqueness of playing links have nice conditions. Generally,

golf by as when "you hit twoirons from 98 vards and 108 yards stuff like that. You don't practice those shots, but you are hoping, in a sadishe way, that you have to play them some time because it is such a challenge. You don't play any of that gnlf in America."

The American Payne Stewart has finished in the top 10 five times at the Open, including at Troon in '89. "The first time I played the British Open was at St Andrews in '84 and 1 hated the course," he recalled. "Now St Andrews is right up there as one of my favourite courses. It takes time, but you learn to love links golf for what it is. You have to focus down more.

"You have to see the ball

at the British Open, you get some nasty weather, so you have to bring the hall down to keep it out of that, and then you have to see it bounce around a little bit and have some imagi-nation to see it catch on that hump and roll down here.

"It is fun, a challenge to manoeuvre the hall around, At Troon, you have to mind your p's and q's. There are some holes you play away from the pin and some holes you attack the pin. Take the Postage Stamp (the par-three eighth). It could be an eight-iron, it could be a pitching wedge, but you don't miss the green to the right, or of the Colonial in May, he long. So when they put the pin in the back right corner, ves. you'd like to put it in really close but you'd better be short of the

"St Andrews will suit Tiger Woods' game to a tee, in the

same way it did John Daly in '95. Troon is a little different. You have to scuttle it around the bunkers. But he can do things with a golf ball that I can't relate to. His biggest asset is the control he has of his game."

One area Woods has had difficulty is playing in the wind, but the tearaway amateur, whose distance control with his irons was off beam when he lost to Gary Wolstenholme in the Walker Cup at Royal Portheawl in 1995, is no more. Woods, though, hits his short-fron shots so high that he can still get into trouble. In a windy final round caused a shock by failing to convert a withning position on the back nine.

Anderson, for one, thinks we will be seeing a new Woods. hitting little knockdown shots and chip and runs. "A player of

to adjust very quickly," he said. "It was always said that the Ryder Cup should go to a links course, but the history of American success at the Open shows that they can adapt to play

links golf as well as anybody. The last four winners at Troon (Palmer, Tom Weiskopl, Thm Watson and Calcavecchia) have all been American, as have the champions in the past two years. The frightening prospect is that the way Troon s set up, with three short parfours he could drive and two par-fives in the first six boles. Woods could make Norman's feat of starting with six birdies m his final round eight years and appear a conservative opening. As Norman said: "He is good enough to deal with any weather and any golf course."

You have been warned.

Fulke's 12 birdies fail to fell Lehman

ANDY FARRELL

reports from Loch Lomond

It was a dull day on the Bonnie Banks, but only in the sense of. the weather. The sun did not quite break through all day, but with hardly a breath of wind and the fairways and greens soft after the rain of Thursday, the Loch Lomond course was there for the taking.

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13 under, is two strokes behind Lehman, who maintained his advantage with a 67, and two ahead of another American, Steve Jones.

Others came out of the pack, Payne Stewart, wearing Dress Stewart Tartan plus-fours, coming home in 30, although he is still back on seven under, and Ernie Els, returning in 31 to advance to nine under.
The South African was drawn

Tom Lehman, the second-round leader by three strokes. to play with Colin Montgomerie and while Els is correct to dismay have expected a few peo-ple to make an advance. He with two players down the field probably did not expect someone to make 12 hirdies during the day, as Pierre Fulke did. The 26-year-old Swede, however, they have enjoyed at more imtwice bogeyed the 18th and, on portant moments. The US Open

champion shot a 65 to the Scot's 70. with the most significant factor the serial reduction in Els' scores, following rounds of 70 and 69, while Montgomerie has not quite got into top gear after his Irish Open win last week.

"I feel I can go lower still," Els said. "My game is there, but Tom is a good front-runner. He is not going to back off and this is a good course for him. The golf course is in great shape but the weather is making it very

Montgomerie suspected he was getting ahead of himself. "I think I am thinking about next week too much," he said. "I have one eye on Troon. 1 am not putting very well and it is hard to take his event in isolation."

Again, play was of the en- to be warned and then speed joying-the-scenery variety and not to the Scotsman's liking. The whole business of slow play is just getting too much." Monty said. The problem here is a double green at the second and fourth, and a short hole (the

fifth) being followed by a reach-

able par-five (the sixth).
"Colin and 1 are both quick players," Els added. "1 still have not met a pro who wants to play slowly. If someone wants to play slow, there are 150 oth-

In America, the pace is a hit brisker and they don't wait to warn players. You go out know-

Greg Norman, who donned a flat Scottish cap for the oc-casion, was on eight under after a 69, and while the good news for Nick Faldo was that David Leadbetter turned up yesterday morning and the pair had a "good session", Faldo went hackwards with a 72.

Fulke was one of 37 players to resume their second rounds at 6.45 in the morning. The Swede bad played three holes when the thunderstorm came on Thursday, and he completed the front nine in the evening. Fulke resumed at the 10th and ing you will get a one-stroke hirdied five successive hnles penalty if you are slow. Maybe from the 11th in his 64. This was there are guys here who wait only the third cut he had made

all season - at two over Jose Maria Olazabal missed his first of the year - and he picked up five more hirdies in six holes on the front nine of his thirdround 66.

FOUND 66.
GRESTREAM LOCK LOMOND WORLD BY.
WIDTHONAL Leading thirt-round accress (GB or lit unless statusd): 198 T Lehman IUS; 65 65 67. 200 P Fusike (Swa) 70 64 68. 2012 S Janes: IUS; 69 65 68. 204 E B; (SA) 70 69 65. 205 G Norman (Aus) 65 68 69: P Curry 63 72 70. 206 P Sterrart (US) 73 67 66; A Cabrera IArgi 67 72 67: G Day (US) 66 72 68: P Broadhurs; 68 70 68; M Gronberg (Swa) 65 69 69; J Haeggman (Swa) 63 72 71. 207 C Roose (Iti 70 71 66; P O'Malley (Aus) 71 68 68: T Purtzer (US) 68 69 70. 208 J Rask (Swa) 70 70 69; M James 72 71 65, 209 J Parrayk (Swa) 70 71 68, T Bjorn (Dan) 72 27 70; C Mongromen 69 70 70; L Maze (US) 70 69 70; M Halberg (Swa) 27 71 71; P Heditlom (Swa) 73 70 66; L Wiestwood 70 73 66, S Field 68 68 73.

Neumann sets pace

A Swede led after the first round of the US Women's Open, but it was not the defending champion. Annika Sorenstam, as Liselotte Neumann took charge on the Pumpkin Ridge course in Cornelius, Oregon. Sorenstam, the pre-champi-

onship favourite, was upstaged by her compatriot, who compiled four birdies in a flawless four-under-par 67 in cool afternoon conditions following intermittent rain earlier in the day.

Neumann, the 1988 Open champion, was the only player in the 150-woman field not to make a bogey or worse as she matched her lowest round in a

Americans Susic Redman. Kelly Robbins and Deb Richard, and the 19-year-old South Korean, Se Ri Pak.

Redman was helped by the first hole-in-one of her career. which came at the 15th, where her six-iron bounced three times and jumped into the cup.

Sorenstam found no such joy in her mound as she shot a six-over 77 in a dreadful stort to her quest to win the event for an unprecedented three consecutive years.

Laura Davies, who win in 1987, opened a gash in her left index finger white slicing some bread before the first round and she shor a 75 to stand eight She led by one stroke over the strokes off the pace.

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Charles laments lack of talent as Whitaker takes control

Equestrianism **GENEVIEVE MURPHY**

reports from Hickstead

Michael Whitaker continued to prove the strength of his string of show jumpers yester-day when he rode Virtual VIIlage Ashley to win the Royal

International Grand Prix. The contest incorporated the second of four oew International Championship British Team Trials to be held this year and Whitaker, who won the first of them at Windsor on Absalom, remains unheaten.

Yesterday he defeated Ireland's European champion, Peter Charles, on T'Aime, with Nick Skelton filling third place on the excellent eight-year-old stallion, Tinka's Boy.

No oew talent has emerged in these trials so far. Instead they seem to be achieving their other purpose in proving that Britain's regular team members (the Whitaker brothers, Skelton and Geoff Billington) really are the best in the country. Others can, it is said, stop moaning about there being a

The course, according to

Whitaker, was "not crazy big". Indeed Michael Bullman, chairman of the selection comminee, felt that it was too small, but it was made more demanding when the fences were raised for

the jump-off.

The winning horse, Ashley, will not necessarily be Whitak-European Show Jumping Championships at Mannheim in Germany. His more experienced mount, Twostep, is now back in work, having suffered from back problems which resulted from him having three vertebrae too close together. The horse should be reappearing in a couple of weeks'

Skelton is beginning to be-lieve that Tinka's Boy, although only an eight-year-old, should be his European Championships partner. "Everyone else thinks so," he said. "He's brave and careful and he has

enough ability." The lack of emerging talent does not, however, bode well for British show jumping. Peter Charles, for long frustrated in his bid for a place on a British championship team before taking Irish nationality, believes

strength in depth a decade ago. Charles would have welcomed team trials when he was riding for Britain, but he wonders about their validity now. "You can't knock them, hut it's a bit like going through the motions, because there er's mount for next month's aren't enough good horses and European Show Jumping riders around," he said. "At the moment the British are very

> Charles is short of top horse-power himself. An injury to his best mount, La Ina, who damaged his off-foreleg on the first day of the Aachen show in Germany last month, means that he will not be defending his European title next month.

"I would love to go to the Championships and do well, I'm very ambitious," Charles said. but if the horses I have can't do a good enough job there's no point in going.

ROYAL, INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW (Hickstend, Sussex): Royal international Grand Prix (incorporating the International Championship British Teem Triol): 1 Virtual Village Ashiey Mr. Whitake, GBI cleer, 54.59; 2 TArme (P Charles, if) cleer, 55.56; 3 Virtual Village Inka's Boy IN Sketton, GB) cleer, 57.50, Royal International Speed Challenge: 1 Fedor (P Gearnix, Neth) 55.36secs; 2 Virtual Village Humer's Level IJ Whiteker, GBI 55.37; 3 Convert Hill Desmond IR Spialne, In) 55.42.

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Ravanelli to hold talks at Everton

Football

NICK DUXBURY AND ALAN NIXON

Fahrizio Ravanelli, who does not get out of hed for less than £42,000 a week, will rouse him-self from his hideaway in Italy on Monday and fly to England for talks about a £7.5m move to

Lengthy long-distance dis-cussions yesterday ended with the Middlesbrough striker, who had rejected Everton last week while he negotiated with Liverpool, willing to reconsider a

Howard Kendall will now have the task of selling Everton to Ravanelli with the knowledge that the Italian international is unlikely to agree to a drop in

Everton's desperate need for reinforcements is such that they are likely to equal Ravanelli's salary at Boro, even though it would wreck the Goodison pay structure. Ravanelli was prepared to take less at Liverpool but his personal terms have now

risen again. However, as Everton and Ravanelli, who is allergic to Nationwide League football, need each other at the moment, what looked an unlikely marriage could be consummated soon.

First of all though, Everton have a divorce to sort out and among the envelopes popping through the Goodison letterbox vesterday was a writ from Sheffield United who have started legal proceedings against the club and Kendall fol-lowing the former Blades manager's defection.

United, who demanded £1m in compensações for Kendall's departure, have grown tired of waiting for ao amicable settlement. "I am very annoyed that Everton have been extremely slow and unforthcoming and have not fulfilled the promises that were made when we initially gave permission for Evertoo to approach Howard Keodall," Charles Greeo, United's chief executive, said: "I feel that the only way forward now is for lawyers to resolve the

situation. Martio Dahlin has completed his £2.5m move to Blackburn Rovers from Roma. Roy Hodgson, who was also Dahlin's manager at Malmo, said: "Martin is a top striker. I believe he could be a hig hit in the Premiership and at 29 he is probahly at the peak of his game. I have no worries about him

goals in 51 internationals, will team up today with the Black-burn party who, conveniently, are on a 10-day trip to his

Sheffield Wednesday are chasing the Ukrainian winger Sergei Nahornyak. Wednesday are prepared to pay Dnipro Petrovsk £1m for the 25-yearold international, who is rated the best player in the Ukraine since Andrei Kanchelskis.

"I have heard excellent reports about this hoy from former Coventry and Leicester manager Gordon Milne whose judgement I respect," David Reat, the Wednesday manager. We are hoping to have the speak to him, but first we need permission from his club and we are working oo that."

From rages to rhymes, you get the lot at Arsenal with the discovery that Tony Adams is into poetry the day after teammate Ian Wright was fined a record £15,000 by the Football

Association for misconduct. The 30-year-old Adams, who confessed to heing an alcoholic a year ago, has successfully changed his lifestyle which now includes verse and Thomas Hardy, and Arsenal stand to reap the benefits.
Foothall players have a lot

of pressure on them, but reading can give you peace of mind," professor Gary Cooper, a sports psychologist said. "It will improve him as a person and that will improve him as a player." Adams, who joins Eric Can-

tona as a lover of literature, will have plenty of time for a few chapters when the season starts - he is suspended for the first two games.

The hordes of greeo and white shirts heading for Wales on 23 July will have to divert from Leckwith Stadium to Ninian Park following Inter Cable-Tel's decisioo to move the first leg of their Uefa Cup qualify-ing round tie against Celtic. "Although we are disap-

pointed not to play Celtic on our own pitch, it is more important that we are able to accommowant to see the match," Max James, the chairman of the The Swedish international League of Wales side, said.

"It will still be very much a home game for us because Ninian Park was our hase in 1994 when we first qualified for European competition.

Should Inter Cable Tel make it to the final, their players will need to take only one day off work. Uefa has scrapped the final's two-leg format to bring it into line with the Cup-Winners' Cup and European Cup finals.



All fall down: A pile-up in the peloton unseats Tour de France riders during Stage Six between Le Blanc and Marennes yesterday

Steels expelled for thowing bottle

Cycling

DERRICK WHYTE reports from Marennes

Germany's Erik Zabel was disqualified and placed last after winning a rough sprint finish to the sixth stage of the Tour de France here yesterday.

The stage was awarded to Jeroeo Blijlevens, who had finished second, after Zabel was stripped of the victory for what race officials described as "irregular sprinting". It was the third succesive year that the Dutchman had claimed a stage

The German was placed last on the list of finishers in the 215.5km (134 miles) stage from Le Blanc, while Belgium's Tom Steels has been expelled from the Tour for violent behaviour during the sprint for the line.

Steels was seen by Tour officials to throw his water bottle at the Freochman Frédéric Moocassin

Zabel, who won Tuesday's third stage, sprinted clear in the final straight and eased home ahead of Blijlevens and Djamolodine Ahdujaparov, of Uzbekistan. Cedric Vasseur retained the yellow jersey for France. Zabel would have

moved up to second place in the front of him. Steels was subseoverall standings ahead of the Italian Mario Cipollini had he not been penalised. The 27-year-old German reportedly aimed a headbutt at Moncassin, who was disqualified from this season's Dauphine Libere for headbutting Zabel's team-mate,

Rolf Aldag. The controversial final sprint was also marked by Steels, the Belgian national champion, throwing his bottle at Moncassin after the Frenchman charged in

Yesterday: Stage 6

quently thrown out of the Tour for "violent behaviour towards others" in the main group.

The stage saw the usual series of falls and pile-ups, which at one point left Vasseur, the first Frenchman to wear the yellow jersey since Stéphane Heulot retired during the seventh stage last year, 200 yards adrift of the main group of tiders. He managed to regain his ground, helped by his teammate, Britain's Chris Boardman.

"It was a dream today to see one's name painted on the road every kilometre. It was something I won't forget for the rest of my life," said Vasseur,

The 33-year-old, Ahdujaparov, three times winner of the green jersey, had been in a two-man breakaway with the Swiss rider Rolf Jaermann, winner of the Amstel Gold race in 1993, which huilt up a lead of over a minute and 40 seconds. Abdujaparov, nine-times a stage winner in the Tour de

Tomorrow: Stage 8

take advantage of the disruption to the pack after the incident when Vasseur was left trailing. They were reeled in with 13km to go. Several teams, including Mapei, Batik and GAN, led the chase as they realised that chances for their sprinters to win a stage were running out before

Monday's first mountain stage in the Pyrenees. Pascal Lance, a time-trial necialist, had earlier broken up the leisurely pace of the pack by launching the first attack and building up a lead of 50 seconds with 60km to go. However, the 33-year-old Frenchman, eighttimes a time-trial stage winner. was unable to sustain the pace

on his own and was reeled in. Cipollini was involved in the second of the pile-ups, cutting his right knee and injuring his hand. He was not a happy man after having a hlazing row with his team manager. Antonio Salutini, oo Thursday night about the lack of support he received earlier in the day, when he lost his yellow jersey to Vasseur.

The stage had to be diverted after demonstrators protesting over a planned nuclear dump blocked the planned route with nine tractors...

John Lichfield, page 11

Coxless four to the fore in style

Pril

Rowing HUGH MATHESON reports from Lucerne

Steve Redgrave and Marthew Pinsent were given an uocxpected clear run in the World Cup coxiess fours at Lucerne Regatta yesterday when three crews withdrew from the event, allowing the heat winners to go directly to the final tomorrow.

Aided by James Cracknell in the bow and Tim Foster in the No 3 seat, the British four's victory gained the two points needed to win their event.

The coxless pair of Bobby Thatcher and Ben Hunt-Davis also emerged triumphant after squeezing past the Australians in the last 500 metres without recourse to a big push. Thatcher said: "I could sense we were rowing better and could go through at any time."

The men's lightweight eight. fresh from a thrilling win by a distance of one foot in the Ladies' Plate at Henley, huilt a progressively higger lead over Germany to win a place in the final by four seconds.

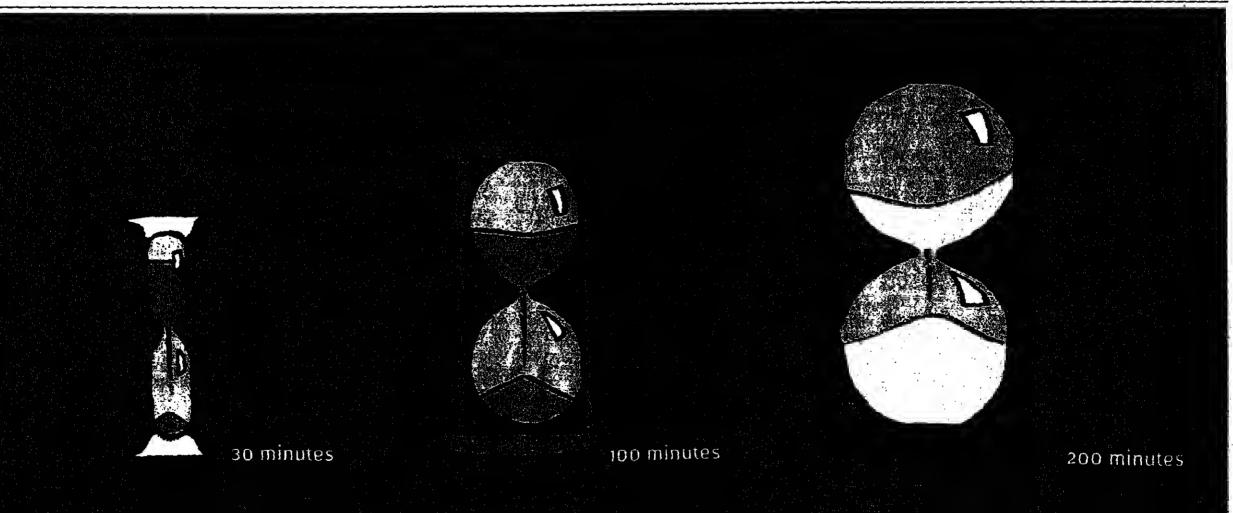
Greg Searle, who has turned from rowing to single sculling. showed the benefit of his victory last week at Henley when he finished a comfortable second to the 1995 champion. Iztok Cop of Slovenia. Scarle has the strength and nous of a world-class sculler, hut earlier this season was too slow off the start to compete for honours.

Guin Batten dominated her heat of the single sculls and appears fully recovered from the virus which knocked her to a standstill against Sweden's Maria Brandin in the final of the Princess Royal Cup at Henley.

Here, the Belorussian Ekaterina Khodatovich looked the strongest, with three scullers in a group behind her. Batten will have to be at her sharpest in the semi-final to be sure of a place in the last eight tomorrow.

Her sister Miriam, the first British woman to win a World Championship medal in 1991, has been searching ever since for another major victory. She is now in a double scull with the tall Scot Gillian Lindsay, which led the first 1,000 metres of the heat before fading to third ce, five secoods behind the Swiss. In contrast to Searle the pair oeed to learn how to sustain raw speed over the entire 2,000 metres of a race.

The other half of the women's team, the pair of Dot Blackie and Cath Bishop, raced to second place behind the new Canadian crew but they were so far clear of the rest of the field that there was little to demonstrate any improvement in their second-place form at Paris two weeks ago.



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0500 500 121 the people to have a one close wi

Damon Hill's move into the wings of Formula One has left the stage clear for another driver to emerge as the main home contender at tomorrow's British Grand Prix and beyond. Derick Allsop talks to the three would-be standard bearers

Princes of speed chase the crown

'My value would be higher if I had stayed at Jordan'

EDDIE IRVINE Age 31 GPs 56 Wins 0

hen anyone firts with professional suicide you have to wonder or admire. Those who wondered are now beginning to admire

The 31-year-old Ulsterman paid a heavy price when he indulged the fantasy of most racing drivers and signed for Ferrari. Certainly he was guaranteed gen-erous remuneration and he has never hidden his

But consider the quid pro quo: his team-mate is Michael Schumacher and his self-appointed judge and jury are the Italian media. On the face of it, a mission impossible bound to end in recrimination and tears. In actuality, the twin hurdens appear to cause him not a flicker of anxiety

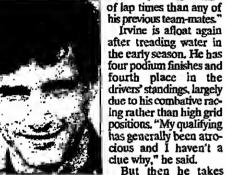
He is dismissive, even scornful, of the press and broadcasting pack that pursues Ferrari's every move, and shrugs uff persistent speculation about his future in one word: "Boring'

He does, however, articulate at length his desire to extend into a third year his association with the legendary marque, which would mean another season alongside Schumacher, a man he considers capable of things even the beatified Ayrton Senna could not do. The German, he figures, can help him establish his own championship credentials.

Irvine said: "I think my stock market value would be higher if I was still at Jordan and I won't be able to become champion while Michael is my team-mate. But if things go on improving at Ferrari the way they are, and I'm second behind Michael next season, I think that could get me a top drive the following year. "Sure, I could move now and get a better personal

position within a team, because it would be relying on me more than Ferrari are. They rely on Michael and what I bring home is a bonus.

"It's not good for your psyche or your ego, but I bought into that, so you either sink or swim. I've been closer to Michael in terms of lap times than any of



fore it would have given him an even higger edge

the rest of us is Michael. He's just amazing. After

that it's difficult to say where the rest of us stand."

do anything I can't." But he applauds the Scot for

his advance this season, as he does Johnny Herbert's

doing a great jub and gut on tup of Hakkinen.

his performances have been fantastic."

"Johnny's also dune a great joh. Now he is Sauber's No 1, the focus of the team is on him and

Like the uther British drivers. Irvine yearns for suc-

cess at Silverstone. He said: "I used to come to the

British Grand Prix as a kid and loved the atmosphere.

I'd always climb over a fence or dig a hole to get in.

I wish it could be like that now. Instead it's just an-

never had anything but bad luck at Silverstone. It

"I loved the old Silverstone but it's been messed

other race. I've probably got more fans at Imula.

endeavours with Sauber-Petronas.

Irvine has consistently said he does not rate Damon

Not that Irvine demands comparison with the cham-

Irvine: paid heavy price undisguised pride in his

hut he's seen me doing it."

appeal of Formula One in this country. Nigel Mansell, star of many an extravaganza here, is long gone; Damon Hill, focus of the recent past, is consigned to a bit part. Britain has no genuine championship contender this season, yet still the show is a sell-out. There are, however, concerns for the

future, suspicions that, as at Wimhle-don, the gallery will ultimately be acknowledging the supremacy of foreign performers. The signs are that contribution to the Schuthe supply line of British talent from macher phenomenon. Irvine explained: "Michael has lower formulae to Grand Prix racing started left-foot braking at Ferrari, which Senna didn't may have been ruptured. do, and that's a big advantage. If he had done it be-

Optimistic talk of promising tiros is not being translated into graduation to the main event. The new names are Ralf Schumacher, Giancarlo Fisichella, Alexander Wurz and Jarna Trulli. pionship leader. "The only person who is a step above

Are those anxieties justified? David Coulthard, at 26 the youngest of the home drivers in the Formula One field, Hill as exceptional and he contends: "Coulthard can't contends not and offers his perspective on the state of the nation.

He said: "We still have some great talent actually in Formula One capa-"You look at David last year." Irvine said. "Hakkihle of performing at the highest stannen gave him a good hiding. This year the team have dard and likely to be around for some realised David's the more sensible guy and they're working with him. He's driving the team. He is time to come.

The overall picture has been distorted by the fact that Damon has left Williams and gone to Arrows. Put him back in a Williams and he would probably he winning the championship, and you would say that the general situation was very healthy. I think it still is.

"I'm racing closer to the front, I won in McIbourne and really should have won in Canada. Eddie is getting podium finishes on a regular basis with Ferrari about too much. It's too artificial. And besides, I've and Johnny is having a really good sea-

Williams must know that if they



'I know that I can beat Schumacher'

DAVID COULTHARD Age 26

McLaren

kept Damon things would be different for them in the championship, and if they don't win it this year they've got to ask why. Now people are beginning to realise that Damon is a better driver than he credit for."

Coulthard is earning widespread credit for raising the level of his game this year. After an inconsistent first season with McLaren-Mercedes, he has emphatically eclipsed his once much vaunted team-mate. Mika Hakkinen. and the Finn is unlikely to be offered a new contract.

The Scot is hopeful he will be invited to stay on. He delivered the McLaren-Mercedes alliance their maiden success in Australia, on the opening day of the season, and had his clutch not given way in Montreal, last month, he would now be in contention in third place in the championship instead of a vexed seventh.

Coulthard is convinced he has the pace, race- craft and temperament to be Britain's next title challenger and believes he can fashion such a campaign with McLaren.

He said: "I believe I can be the man to take the lead and race at the front. Having been with Damon at Williams. I don't see anything he can do that I

"I feel comfortable with the part I've played in the team effort over the last year and a half. Obviously everybody would like to have Michael Schumacher, hut I believe I'm ideally equipped, if we have the right pack age, to win the championship.

I am now getting to the stage where

I know I can race Michael and beat him. I've beaten him on the road twice this year. I've shown I've got the speed because Mika has always been regarded as very fast and I've been in front of him in qualifying, and scoring the first win gave me a psychological Mika has been here for a long while

and has done a great job, but it's more of a level playing field this year. It takes time to adapt and I have. I am performing at a high level. I've been stronger in every way, physically and mentally. I came out better prepared for this season, and I'm heginning to reap the benefits."

That mental work involves sessions with a physiologist, who has helped Coulthard see a clearer path to his objective, and even made dreams come

Formula One is not just about driving a car," Coulthard explained. "It's a mental battle. In my earlier career qualifying wasn't my strongest

point, and I had to focus to improve

"Clearing the mind and becoming more focused before qualifying and before a race does make a difference. It's visualisation. We all have good dreams about what we are going to do, and I wouldn't have believed it before, hut I do now believe that if you keep your subconscious mind in a positive state you can make those dreams become

"I don't want to get all freaky about it because I'm not that sort of person, but you do, in effect, drift into your inner self. The night before a race I can see in my mind where I am on the grid and try to imagine what the opposition are going to do, and where I'm going to go. You have to have some sort to plan at the back of your mind."

Coulthard concedes he does not envisage a win to share with the home crowd tomorrow afternoon.

He sald: "On paper I've got the best chance of the Brits, but it's a difficult circuit for us. I wish I could foresee victory in the British Grand Prix, but unless Williams and Ferrari don't get it together, that's an improbable

"I need to finish the race and at least score points. We've thrown away 12 points in the last two races and, although I've had a better season in terms of performance. I've actually got fewer points at this stage of the season than I had last year. I believe I've had a better season than Eddie, and he's fourth in the championship.

There's an increasing pressure on everyone in the team to win another race. Since that win in Melbourne we have been subjected to a higher level of pressure to repeat it. The next grand prix, at Hockenheim, maybe the place to achieve it. Unfortunately, Silverstone

You need to be in the right place at the right time'

JOHNNY HERBERT Sauber Age 33 GPs 103 Wins 2

t the age of 33, Johnny Herbert is enjoying a revival of form and reputation even he may not have considered probable when he was discarded by Benetton and sought refuge at the Swiss outpost of Sauber.

Midway through his second season with the team, he is being regarded as a serious protagonist, an adjective not readily used to describe Herbert.

His playful image has rarely amused employera of potential champions, but Sauber see a side he maintains existed all along.

He said: "I've always had this thing about being the nice guy, easy to talk to and have a laugh and a joke with. People see me as this cheeky chappie. I

don't mind that at all and the public seem to like it because I've always had a loyal following.

"You'll probably find nine people out of 10 don't know my car is a Sauber and haven't even heard of

Sauber, but they know my name, and when the name of the driver is bigger than the car that can't be had "Damon is still the main man for the British fans cause he's the world champion. David has the

benefit of being with McLaren, which is still recognised as a big team and it's a similar thing for Eddie at Ferrari. Whatever I do it's as Johnny Herbert." He stresses, however, that Sauber have provided him with the environment to resuscitate his career.

He left Benetton after the 1995 season with wins at Silverstone and Monza but shattered dreams, and he contemplated quitting Formula One. Unlike Irvine, he could not come to terms with

the limitations imposed as Michael Schumacher's No 2. At Sauber they have welcomed Herbert's infectious sense of fun yet appreciate he has the talent and commitment to do the job, given the equipment and the backing.
He said: "Even though I had those two wins at

Benetton the year with Michael harmed me a lot. My reputation definitely took a hig knock. But

since then I've actually got better. I am more confident and when you are more confident you're driving is better. "If you haven't got fairness within a team you can't perform to your capabilities, but at Sauber they have treated me well and accept me for the kind of guy I am.

1 think I've repaid them with my driving. "I'm fortunate I have Herbert: Job assure

not only an understanding team, but also the mental strength that has kept me going. My accident in '88, then losing my drive first time round with Benetton, the lows at Lotus and then Benetton a second time, have all been hard setbacks. *But they have all made me tougher and enable me to take the pressures, because those pressures

t greater all the time. It's a serious husiness. Yes, I still like to muck about, but at the right time. When I'm working I am very serious about it. Ten years ago there was less pressure. You had time to settle into a team and find your form. Now no one gives you any time. You've got to get out there

and do it. If you don't you are written off as no good. It's unfair, but its the way the husiness has gone Herbert is the only British driver assured his job

for next season but he acknowledges that Sauber are unlikely, in the next 12 months, to huild a platform for the championship, so he must eventually move on to pursue his dream. "We are looking at podium potential here and hopefully things will continue to improve," he said.

But I believe the championship is still a realistic target for me and I think achieving it is possible. "My age and fitness are certainly no problem. Damon was 36 when he won the championship. Nigel Mansell was 39. What you need is to be in the right

place at the right time, as they were. Eighteen months ago I was disillusioned and disenchanted. Now things have turned round for me. I could do another good job next year and end up

HOW THEY LINE UP AT SILVERSTONE

1 Damon Hill (GB) Age 36, GPs 75, wins 21, Championships 1. 2 Pedro Diniz (Bra) Age 27, GPs 41, wins 0.

Age 26, GPs 24, wins 7. 4 Heinz-Haraid Frentzen (Ger) Age 30, GPs 56, Wms 1.

5 Michael Schumacher (Ger)

Age 28, GPs 92, wirs 25, Cham-

6 Eddie tryine (GB) Age 31. GPs 56, WITS O. 7 Jesn Alesi (Fr) Age 33, GPs 126, wins 1. & Alexander Wurz (Aut) Age 23, GPs 2, was 0. McLares Mercettes 9 Mike Halddnen (Fin) Age 28, GPs 87, wins 0. 10 David Coulthard (GB) Age 26, GPs 49, wins 2.

11 Relf Schumacher (Ger) Age 22; GPs B, wins O. 12 Giarcario Fisichella (III) Age 24, 69s 16, Wits O. Man-Houde 14 Janno Truss (tt) Age 23, GPs 8, wins 0. 15 Shall Nakano (Japan) Age 25, GPs 8, wins 0.

16 Johnny Herbert (GB) Age 33, GPs 103, wms 2. 17 Noberto Fontana (Arg) Age 22, GPs 1, wins 0.

1 Jos Verstappen (Neth) Age 25, GPs 38, wins 0. 19 Mika Salo (Fin) Age 30, GPs 43, wins 0.

20 Ukyo Katayama (Japan) Age 34, GPs 85, wins 0. 21 Tarso Merques (Bra) Age 21, GPs 3, wins 0.

22 Rubens Barrichello (Bra) Age 25, GPs 72, was 0. 23 Jan Magnusson (Den) Age 23, GPs 8, wins 0: 🕟

1 Michael Schumacher

2 Jacques Villeneuve 3 Heinz-Harald Frentzen 4 Eddie Irvine .. 5= Oliver Paris 5= Jean Aless . 7 David Coulthard 8= Gerhard Berger 8 - Milka Hakkiner 10 Grancado Fisichella 11 Johnny Herbert . 12 Rubens Barrichello 13 Raif Schumacher 14 Mika Salo 15≈ Nicola Larint ...

(yreal-POT) CES TO COME: 27 July: Germany Clock-hamn; 10-July: Hungary (Budapust); 28-ge Balgare (Sna-Painocotharpat); 7 Septe by Oxforce; 21. Swatch Anaton (Zebrany); 28-pt: Licenthoury (Burbungray); 12. Oct-per (Sunsid); 28. Oct. Europe (Durez).

TIME TRALE croise— irristo exclubity 07,15-06,15: Politic pit roed well-about - Imited evelopity 19,60-89,45; P1.- 3rd practice 10.15-11.00: F2 - 4th practice 11.15-12.00: Tipel and all displays

15.30s Race 2 - Strick Foresta 3 Chamer 16.10-16.40: Poroche Supercup - second practice session 16.40: Air display - The Fird Arcell 17.00: Pince 3 - BRDC 1956's Grand Physics (10 legs) 17,50: Race 4: BRDC 1960's Grand Prix cars (10 kg)91

10.18-20.40: rence on reliable to the top of (60 tops) 16.15; Rece & Princego Insulance GT Char Profits (50 mm) TV: (TV 13.00-16.15; Hagragias 23.10

09.50-10.00: f1 - warmings 10.15-10.45: Race 5; Parente Supercup perhaps, takes effect.

David Coulthard's driver's guide to Silverstone Lap Record: 1:22.515 Maggotts Curve 228.002 kmh/141.674 mph Damon Hill (1993), --Copse Comer Circuit length: 5.057 km/3.040 Woodcate Bridge Farm Straight Vale Comer I believe, the most exciting and spectacular section of the circuit. The first part is sixth, then you are down a The latest changes to Silverstone have gear for the last part. You need to flow as it's another good viewing noint because you can get made it a faster, more demanding and smoothly as possible and have the Littleid you are close to the cars. more satisfying circuit to drive. The momentum for Hangar Straight. Becketts Bridge is a fifth gear corner, taken flat. downside is that overtaking opportunities is a place I would recommend for Then you are into the complex, which are going to be limited and we may be speciators. has been improved and has provided one Along Hangar Straight, the fastest part of having to wait for mistakes as firedness.

Conse. the first corner, is blind and very fast. No breaking down a gear and on the power again. You've got to pick the anex before you arrive at it. Backetts is,

the circuit, and into Stowe is probably going to provide the best chance to Through Club the cars will twitch as

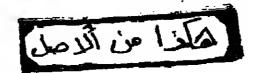
drivers get on the power and although Abbey is a pretty straight forward chicane

or two spills in the past. You may recall Damon Hill and Michael Schumacher going off together here in 1995.

If you want to see the cars for a relatively long period of time, then this is the place to be. It is fairly slow, second gear.

and up through the gears as you: sweep around Woodcote and across





Edwards pulls out with a heel injury

Athletics

MIKE ROWBOTTOM reports from Birmingham

Jonathan Edwards, Britain's world triple jump champion, pulled out of the world championship trials here yesterday because of a bruised beel.

Edwards, who sustained the injury in Britain's European Cup win last month, is still training but has been advised by specialists not to risk the injury in competition.

But the Gateshead Harrier, who missed grand prix meetings in Lausanne and Oslo last week. has told the selectors he wants to be considered for next month's championships in Athens when they pick the team on Tucsday.

Athletes seeking selection are expected to compete in the trials unless they have a valid injury. "The heel is recovering slower than expected," the British Athletic Federation spokeswoman Javne Pearce aid. "Jonathan can train, but he is not fit for competitive activ-

ity this weekend. "He and the specialists are monitoring the situation, but Jonathan has told us he wants to be considered for selection."

Edwards - who has now missed the last three British trials - had planned to compete on Monday in Salamanca, where he set his first world record two years ago. But yesterday he told the national performance director, Malcolm Arnold, that he would not be go-

ing there.
"Jonathan has given me that assurance," Arnold said. "If he tells me he is not fit I have no reason to think otherwise. I used to be a triple jumper myself, and I spent half my life up-toeing around hecause this event hurts. You are taking six to eight troubled by an Achilles tendon

times your body weight when

Edwards, and other athletes who have been forced to withdraw from this weekend's event in the Alexander Stadium such as Roger Black, have until the final selection deadline of 22 July to prove fitness.

Black, who has had to miss the 400m because of a virus infection, has the possibility of racing in Hechtel - an hour's flight from Brussels - next Saturday in order to gauge his recovery. If the third, optional individual place is not still available to him, he will still be keen to qualify as part of the relay team.

"Our policy is to get the best possible team to the championships," Arnold said. He contrasted the British system with the top two automatically qualifying assuming they have the world qualifying mark in their event and a third place remaining at the selectors' discretioo-with that of the United States, where it is simply first three past the post.

"Their policy doesn't appear to get the best team to the champinnships," he said, referring to the large number of world champinns - including Michael Johnson, Gail Devers and Dan O'Brien - who have failed to satisfy the US selectors.

The 100m heats finally convinced those who doubted that Linford Christie really meant what he said when he insisted he would not compete at this summer 5 world championships. He was not there; he plans to compete tomorrow in Stuttgart, where he won the 1993 world ti-

But the two men whom Christie has coached to promising positions in the event, Darreo Campbell and Ian Mackie, both qualified easily, though the latter revealed that he is being

problem Mackie, who eased up 15 metres from the line as he won in 10.60sec, said afterwards: "Tve had the problem for a couple of months now. It is affecting my thinking as I get out of the blocks. I've been getting treat-ment for it, but it's a very busy time of the year and I haven't had a chance to rest it. I had the same problem last year."

Campbell also slowed as he finished first in 10.43, a place ahead of the Akinola Lashore, of Blackheath Harriers, who recorded a highly creditable 10.44 into a ooe and a half metre headwiod.

The running events took place on a newly laid Alexan-der Stadium track, and marked the British debut for the supersensitive Seiko starting system that first appeared in the Gothenburg world champi-onships of 1995. Meanwhile Richard Sim-

mons, who is mobilising the campaign to keep athletics at Crystal Palace in the face of Bromley Council's redevelopment plans, is calling on the sport to take the opportunity of putting its case before final decisions are made. Bromley are inviting sports seeking to use the redeveloped facility to submit husiness plans which would also be considered by the English Sports Council

"It is vitally important that athletics grabs this opportunity to make its case for the future of the sport at Crystal Palace." said Simmons, national coach for the South-East, "It has to happen in the next few weeks."

But he is hearteoed by the assurance given by Bromley and the Sports Council following recent meetings that all the options remain open. Bromley face a further problem as the indoor sports complex at Crystal Palace, which they had considered demolishing. is a listed building.



Britain's Tim Henman on his way to victory in the Davis Cup yesterday

Becker's entry welcomed by the US Open

Tennis

Boris Becker, a former champion, has entered this year's US Open, coding speculation that the German's recent Wimbledon appearance would be his last at a grand slam event.

Becker, 29, announced after his quarter-final defeat by Pete Sampras last week that it would be his last appearance at Wimbledon, a tournament that he has won three times. Becker said he realised he didn't have "what it takes to go all the way and win a championship like that".

The German, who won the US Open in 1989, will be giving grand slam tennis at least one more try next month at Flushing Meadow.

"I'm very glad that Boris will make at least one more appearance at the US Open," Jay Snyder, the tournament director, said. "He has always been ooe of the most exciting players in the sport and an integral part of US Open history the last

Becker has not played in the US Open since 1995, when he lost to Andre Agassi in the semifinals. He missed last year's event with an injured right wrist. Entries for this year's tournament, which begins on 25 August at the National Tennis Centre, close on Monday.

Britain suffered a further loss in the Bristol Challenger Trophy yesterday when Jamie Delgado bowed out of the quarter-finals. The 20-year-old went down 2-6, 7-6, 3-6 to the second seed Moses Navarra of Italy on Redland Green's ceotre court to leave the top seed Mark Petchey as the sole home survivor in the meo's grass court event.

For the third successive match Delgado was involved in unable to improve upon last

year's showing when he also fell

in the last eight. This time he had to claw his way back into contention, after being twice broken in the first set, losing the third and seventh games. But in what was largely baseline battle with Navarra. Delgado hit back to take the

second set tie-break 7-2. The crucial moment came in the eighth game of the final set when Delgado served up his first double fault of the match to hand his opponent a vital edge The Italian, who reached

Wimbledon's third round last year, needed no second invitation in his own service game to clinch a semi-final place against either South Africa's Jeff Coetzee or Stefano Pescosolido

of Italy.
"I felt I played a pretty good
match and, although I'm disappointed. I think my tennis has been of a pretty high quality this week," Delgado said. "Navarra is a strong player and didn't give me many easy points."

Alistair Hunt of New
Zealand booked his place in today's last four with a comeback against the fifth seed Peter Tramacchi, of Australia. He lost the first set on the tie-break but

went through 6-7, 6-4, 6-2. At the Swedish Opeo in Basted Magnus Norman of Sweden, seeded fourth, beat the controversial American Jeff Tarango 6-2, 6-3 yesterday to set up a semi-final with Spain's Juan Antonio Marin.

Norman, who won a tough, three-set match on Thursday, found the going much casier against Tarango, breaking his opponent's serve twice in each set to prevail in a match that lasted less than an hour.

Marin, who went into the tournament unseeded, proved far too good for Norman's fellow countryman Thomas Nydahl, winning 6-2, 6-1, in a match that lasted just 63 minutes.

Robinson solid in Rest defeat

Rugby League

Australia Rugby League Rest of the World

among the vanquished as the Rest of the World were easily heaten 28-8 by Australia's World Cup champions in Brisbane vesterday.

been with their Super League colleagues in Paris but in the cheque-book scramble two years ago they lined up with the

Australian Rugby League. Robinson and Connolly flew south after their London Broncos disappointment and were last night on the plane home again for the game at Central Park with the Brisbane Broncos in the World Club Championship next weekend.

The makeshift Rest of the World side also included former players of the British game such as Craig Innes, Lee Jackson and Harvey Howard and. along with the Wigan pair, they

For a while it looked as if the Rest of the World side might produce an upset of Titanic proportions. Some 23 minutes into the game they were ahead, thanks to some brilliance by their captain, Adrian Lam, the Papua New Guinea international. He threw no fewer than

five successful dummies before setting up the second-rower Darren Ramcka, who spun out of a tackle to score.

Teo mioutes later, the World Cup full-back Tim Brasher The Wigan pair, Jason Robin- scored the first of two tries to nut the Austr with only seconds remaining in the first half, Lam kicked a high hall, Robinson knocked it back and the New Zealand international, Jarrod McCracken, was The two backs should have over. The Rest were ahead 8-6.

Robinson had been having a great game, showing just why Wigan worked so hard to negotiate a way out of the contract which would have tied him to the ARL. He almost scored in the third minute when leaping high to take a Lam high ball and he saved two or three tries

with sensational cover defence. The Australians came out firing in the second half and in the fourth minute Brasher was over for his second try. And then, in the space of 15 minutes, they ran in three other tries, despite a valiant effort by Rohinson to stop the centre Terry Hill for the first. Lam said afterwards: "We didn't have much ball in the second half and you can't win

matches like that " Connolly and Robinson return home ahead of the Brisbane Broncos who have to play the Canberra Raiders on Mon-

SOUTHWELL-290- MINTILLYAR (49) VI Kemp 6 11 0 32214 - MATHANI (21) (D) Jáss K Ceorge 9 11 0 1717- THE COOPERD DON (41) (D) H Pomine 9 11 0 APO-10 INSTROLABE (24) 1 M Bodley 5 10 9 6.45 Santella Boy 7.15 Andreiot 7.45 Desert Force 8.15 Iffeee 8.45 Master Showman 9.15 Bright

6.45 LIME NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,750 added 3m 110yds

F41:12 SAMEDIA BOY CPR (D) (BY C Mayn 5 11 9 R Develody B M312: CALL BE ANSI (45) Ms.; Richards 6 117 ... A P RACOY S PSAUL 3 SHAME (21) (Q) J'O'Shot J' 11 7 ... Michael Bremen (Q) V 24PU- M32E WAND (101) 7 BE 10 11 0 ... M A PEZIPREM 11523/ JOHNS THE BOY (422) (D) R MSOUN 11 11 0 ... R Sent 11523/ JOHNS THE BOY (422) (D) R M T Archives Shame 7 110 ... R Gent 160PL LITTLE TRICTURE (A2) (D) M's T Archives Shame 7 110 ... G Upton

-11 declared BETTING: 6-4 Southells Boy, 4-1 Call Ma Albi, 12-2 Johns The Boy, 7-1 Hope 7.15 ASH HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £6,000

added 2m 4f 110yds

-8 declared
-8 declared
BETTING: 5-2 Signs Ruy, 7-2 Imagests Green, MIRI O'The Rogs, 5-1 Andrews, When Advice, 13-1 Marry Parks, Who's To Say, 25-1 Marthers Op-

7.45 SIDENOR (UK) HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £3,650 added 2m 4f 110yds

411-13 HELLO ME WAN (20) (CO) 807 8 Develyn 9 10 10 ...

BETTHE: 3-1 Mr Morianty, 9-2 Descri Fisco, 6-1 Helio Me Man, 7-1 Out Racking, Zingther, 8-1 Herketts Cross, Bayerd, 10-1 others 8.15 SYCAMORE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds

UC2-34 PROTOTOTE DISPORT G Johnson Houghton 8:10-12 ... A Tecntion
9:50-24 PAGE POTALE FOR JUST CHARGE TO 12 ... S Monte of 10-12 ... S

BETTING: 13-4 Mone, 9-2 Balleto Bay, 5-1 Page Royale, 5-1 H Only, 13-2 North Bear, Estimo Riss, 7-1 Prototype, 5-1 others

8.45 BOWMER & KIRKLAND SELLING HANDI-CAP HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,600 2m 1 024-15 FOE MON (21) (CD) M Bleby 5.12 0_

- 22 declared = BETTRHR: 4-1 Master Showman, 6-1 hie Mon, Follow de Cell, 11-2 Tango Man, 8-1 Rattleship Brace, 10-1 Caddy's First, 12-1 others

9.15 CALVERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000 added 3m 110yds

- 5 declared -

WARWICK

HYPERION 6.30 Fayrana 7.00 Arzani 7.30 Indigo Dawn 8.00 Mullagh Hii Lad 8.30 Made Bold 9.00 Farley

BRAW ADVANTAGE: High for his law for I m 27 10Dyd. Left-hand course. The 5f course has a dog-leg at half-way.

Course is Wolf city on B4095, Buses from status at Warwick

(1st) and Learnington Sign (2st). ADMINSSION: Club SIZ (16 to 24-year-olds S6); Tatterralls S5; Course S5. CAR PARK; S3. BLINKERSD PREST TIME: Forears (8.00). WINNZES IN THE LAST SEVEN DATS: May King Maybean (7.20) won at Carlisle on Saturday, Royal Glreus (7.50) was at Bath on Montay, The Pagastre (9.00) was at Feltestone on Westingstay, LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Growthar Last (7.00) has been seen 179 miles by M Wage from Melsonby, North Yorkshire.

6.30 NICK KNIGHT MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES

ARP CRACKER (SS) M Johnson 8 7 _____ We

LAVERIOCK LADY / J Quim 8 4....... MINISAPPERE (14) R Hodges 8 1....

7.00 ANDY MOLES SELLING HANDICAP (CLASS G) £3,000 added 1m 2f 169yds

7.30 WATCH SECURITY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 6f 194yds

0005- TOPASLOW (2229 P Demon 4 8 0 N Verley 10 35:531 PRISKO PARVIN (5) M JOHNSON 3 7 12 N Adams 3 0-0436 ERSQUET-06-800CHE [18] R Dictor 3 7 10 LR Verleson (7) 9 0750-2 RRLSWICK (46) J Parg 6 7 10 N A Poll (5) 8 005007 CHICAGO'S REST (040) K Comartad 10 7 10 N Carliste 11 - 12 decimed -Minimum weight: 7st 10th. True nandicap weights: Bioques-De-Bouche 7st 7th, Hillands 7st 3th, Chicago's Best 6st 8th.

8.00 HOLSTEN PILS HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 5f 0/2002 CAPTURE SINNAD (24) K Britghter 5 8 7 V Statlery 8 8 055-56 WINDOWS ADV (14) (20) M R Bodey 7 8 7 V Statlery 8 8 10-000 PORZARA (S) (D) I Speaking 4 8 5 Dromet 4 8 034350 SOTOMAN (FIOL) (4) (D) P Falgate 4 8 7 A PORT (S) 7 0-05 VOLKOS (45) I Barris 3 7 10 J Quinn 11

- 12 declared - Affinians veight: Policies Tet 100. True Handlage seight: Inulies Tet 100. True Handlage seight: Inulies Tet 100. BETTIME: 9-4 The Pagative, 9-2 Mellage NW Lad, 5-1 Rhear Form, 6-1 (Aght Express, 7-1 Sotoeless, 6-1 Bosse Veraturis, Skatey Stock, 10-1 others

8.30 HBG HBGGS & HILL MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 7f D-D2 ANNISSE (8) K sland 4 9 7 _______ D O'Douchoe (3) 2 CO KALEY GOODESS (USA) (4) R Assisting 4 9 7 _____ Define 1

Minimum weight: 10st. True hardings weight bright Sapahlel 9st 12th. BETTINB: 11-10 Sand Mindle, 11-4 Vidoo Of Freedom, 6-1 Apachee Fil 7-1 Scotoni, 10-1 Jennyellen, 12-1 Bright Sapahle

— 13 declared — BETYPNG: 11-4 Sweet Fortune, 7-2 Node Bold, 4-1 Malabi, 9-2 Jarrocks, 8-1 Anasol, Shoshaloza, 10-1 Lay Vistas, 24-1 others

9.00 DOMINIC OSTLER HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO fillies 7f

Minimum: 7st 10th. True h'sap mights: Prospering 7st 5th. With Phincess 7st. BETDME 9-2 Farley Grown, 13-2 Hallowing, Song Milet, Prospering, 8-1 Ridden, Collibrate Starr, Pres As & Bird, Midyan Queen, 10-1 others

Paris under pressure

Paris St-Germain get some small relief from their current problems by not having to face two of Wigan's most potentially destructive players tonight, writes Dave Hadfield. Gary Connolly and Jason

Robinson will still be on their way back from playing for the Australian Rugby League's Rest of the World side that was beaten 28-8 in Australia and Lee Gilmour will make his full debut. Wigan's visit will, nevertheless, be a test of Paris resolve at a time when many of their

internal difficulties have be-

come public, although the club

is adamant that it will take part

in the next phase of the World Club Championship in Australia. London Broncos, who have suspended Josh White for missing a training session and are without the injured Shaun Edwards, switch their hooker, Robbic Beazley, to scrum-half tomorrow at Sheffield Eagles. who have taken a 40 per cent

stake in the Shelfield Sharks hasketball club. White is now a target for

Salford as well as Hull. David Krause returns on the wing for Martin Offiah, who is also injured.

Bobbie Goulding, who has missed St Helens' last five matches after an operation for a hernia, is set to return against Halifax tomorrow evening. Sean Long will be at stand-off as the pair team up for the first

Paul Rowley is fit again for Halifax, who my Martin Pearson at scrum-half as they try to win for the first time in nine matches. The Salford coach, Andy Gregory, is to appear before the

Rughy League on Tuesday over his criticisms of the referee, Robert Connully. One of the game's loogestserving administrators. Roy Waudby, is standing down from the League's board of directors, blaming political tensions

between the league and Super League clubs. Wandby will now concentrate on his club, Hull, but hopes that the game will accept his plan for a salary cap to be 3.00: 1. AGD TEST (Martin Dayer) 3-1; 2. Little Tumbler 11-1; 3. The imposter introduced next season.

10-1. 10 ran, 5-2 tay Tender Dolf (4th). Hd. 2.10: 1. DASHING BLUE (L Detrom) 8-1; 2. Crofters Califol 14-1: 3, Twice As Strarp 7-1. 14 res. 5-1 fav Cowded Avenue. 1. rk. (Basking, Kingscient. Force. 56: 60; 22: 60, 64.20, 62: 50. DF: 194.00. CSF: £115.14.

neast: £794.69, Tee: £183.40, 2.40: 1. DREAM OF NURSKI (R Firench) 2.40: 1. DREAM OF NURSH (R French)
11-2: 2. Research Sen 25-1: 3. Sheft of
Ught 4-1 if Dr. 12 ren. 4-1 if he Present
Ams. 1-4, 3/4. (D Loder, Newtrorket). Total
66.40: £2.00. £4.00. £1.60. DP: £50.40.
CSF: £135.92. Throat: £576.54. 7no:
£74.20. NR: Oops Pottle.
3.10: 1. SNRT AUBADDYA U Rech 4-1.

2. Bodin Joanne 7-3; A. Consensina 11-1, 8 ras., 11-10 fav hejitbrd (4dn). Nr., 4. (M. Stanta, Neumonico). Tota: £8.80; £1.90, £3.10. DF: £7.10. CSF: £18.05. 3.40: 1, JO MELL R. Charrock). 3-1 fav; 2. Therbes 9-1; 3. Pride Of Pendie 9-1, 14. ran, 17., 2, ff Easterby, Maltoni, Total: £4.20; £2.30, £2.50, £2.00, £6; £24.70, CSF: £28.12, Treast: £209.55, Trop. £33.90, 4.10; 1. All-ROYAL (K Fallon) 9-4; 2. West-A-Mirate 50-1: 3. Restructure 8-1.

Weet-A-Minute 50-1: 3. Restructure 8-1. 6 ran. 4-7 fav Kehal (40n. 2-4, 2. (H Cool, hexamarieu. Yohr: E2-70; £1.50, £4.20. DF: £33.70 CSF: £73.62, 4.40: 1. SHARP PLAY (D McKeowni 16-1: 2. Mousbary 13-2: 3. Success And Glory 11-4. 10 ran. 7-4 fav Rabah, 3/2, 1/3, (M Johnston, Medigham). Tetat £28.80; £3.40, £2.70. £1.40. DF: £80.00. CSF: £124.91. Tric: £147.40. £124.91. Tro: £147.40. Justipola not won lipsoil of £32,454,35 car-

Placepot: £287.40. Quedpot: £14.70. Place 6: £429.39. Place 5: £110.46. LINGFIELD 2.30: 1. ETHASSH (M. Dwyer) 5-1: 2. Ameelman 9-4 fav; 3. Mister Relder 16-1. 8 mm. v., 1y., ID Haydh Jones, Pontyproton. Total 56.90; £1.40, £1.40, £3.40, DF: £8.20. CSF: £13.72

2%, NV Mutr. Lambourni, Totat: £3,60; £1,50, £3,00, £2,20, DF: £96,80, CSF; £37.18. Tre: £100.30, MR: Aust A Straff,

Temper.
3.30: 1. OUT LINE IN Variety 8-1: 2. Senorius Martida 12-1: 3. Davie Rock 7-1. 13 can. 5-1 tay Pharach's Joy (5th. 17, trd. 04 Madgetch, Dormeath, Total £11.20: £3.70, £5.80, £2.50, DF: £169.30, £5.80. £100.95. Theast: £879.92. The: £156.00. NR: Always Grace. Polgayrra. 4.00: 1. BRELLIANT RED (G Duffeel) 7-4 for, 2. Movingo 3-1; 3. Raids 11-2.6 nm. SN-40, 2. P. Hedger, Charleston, Total 12-30, £1.60, £1.50, DF: £5.00, CSF: £5.88.

4.30: 1. KROSNO IR HEMAII 8-1: 2. Bewitching Lady 20-1: 2 Swing West 7-1, 13 ran. 3-1 fev Zorro. 3V, V. IS Wilhams, New-market), Tota: 19.70; £2.00: £5.20, £2.40. DF: £153.40. CSF: £155.64. Tricast: 51.093.09. That £397.20 (par won), 5.00: 1. LA MODISTE (R Hughes) 13-2: 2. Count Forry 14-1: 3. Sweet Supposin 13-2: 13 ran. 2-1 tay Bayers Daughter (4m), %, 3. (Mass Gay Reseway, Whitcombo), Total £11.20; £3.30, £2.10, £2.00. 05: E82.10, CSF- £91.94, Treast: £577.67. Treast: £577. Treast: £577.67. Treast: £577. Treast: £577.67. Treast:

Place 6: £526.96. Place 5: £254.46.

WOLVERHAMPTON

2.20.1. SROADWAY MELODY DI Holandi 10-1; 2. Castle Ashty Jack 2-1: 3. Bold Spring 6-5 lav. 7 ran. 3, 2%, 14 Janus. Tota: £12.30; £1.80, £1.40, DP: £25.40, CSP: LEO: 1. MADAM LUCY IS Carson 2-1 fav.

2. Boo Great 5-1: 3. Mysterlam 5-1: 9 ran. 14. 5. (W Halph). Total (3.50: £2,20. £1.60, £1.50, DF: £7,40, CSF: £11.64, Trio: 3.20: 1. ITSINTHEPOST (F Noton) 5-1. 2. Newblest 7-1: 2. Pile Major 8-1, 11 rest.

RACING RESULTS 3.50: 1. PEOPLE DIRECT (I Outro) 9-2: 2. Date Valentino 12-1; 2. Johnnie The Johnson 79-2, 9 ran. 5-2 lav Sweet Contrato, 5, 4. (N. Littmoden). Tota: £3.80; £1.10, £3.20, £1.60, DF: £45.50, CSF: £57.43. Th-CSSC £245.79. Tro: £28.10. NR: Water

4.20: 1. MYSTIC STRAND (0 Swisney) 4-1; 2. Esperto 2-5 fb; 3. Bullydisero 8-1. 5 ras. 2½. 15. (W Turnet. Tota: £3.00; £1.10, £1.30. DF; £1.50. CSF; £5.77. NR 4.50: 1. OPENING RANGE (F Bradley) 7-2; 2. Amy Leigh 11-2; 3. Marjorie Rose 2-1, ter. 7 cm. Ns. 91-hd. IN Berry, 1. Total: £5.30; 57.00, £5.50, DF: £10.50, CSF: £21.99, Pincepot: £10.20. Quadpot: £8.20. Pince 6: £79.01. Pince 5: £33.83.

The Ed Dunlop-trained

Jiyush, sidden by Richard Hills, could finish only fifth in the Listed Prix La Moskowa over Im 7f at Chantilly yesterday. The Newmarket horse could do no more than stay on at one pace and finished a little over six lengths behind the easy winner Philanthrop (ridden by Thierry Gillet). Jean-Paul Gallorini's remarkably tough customer, on the go since January, still looked fresh as he powered five lengths clear of Criquette Head's American recruit, Yokohama, Philanthrop was recording his fifth win of the season. Fairhonor and Oliviero were third and fourth re-

Nurmi honours his namesake

Dream Of Nurmi, named after the outstanding middle-dis-tance runner Paavo Nurmi, found his way into the winner's enclosure at York.

Nurmi was the idol of the colt's owner, the Olympic gold medallist Chris 8rasher. "He was simply the best and I had to name a horse after him," Brasher said. "It's great that the horse has managed a victory on the centenary of Nurmi's birth." Brasher picked up the Olympic gold for steeplechasing in 1956, while Nurmi is one of only three athletes to collect nine gold medals and once won the 5,000 metres and 1,500 metres in the space of 90 minutes.

Dream of Nurmi came through smoothly uoder Roys-Ion Ffrench to lead with a furlong to travel and defeated Remaadi Sun by one and a quarter lengths. The Queen's Shaft Of Light, who made the running, was relegated to third. Dream of Nurmi was at last

dispensing with his maiden tag after several near misses. "He's just been a bit un-

The world of athletics invaded racing territory yesterday when said. "He's rather lazy and at es which run under the banner Newcastle he waited for one to come and do him. Then at Epsom he got stuck in a had posi-

> Bint Albaadiya stretched her unbeaten sequence to four when producing a powerful late rattle to catch Bollin Joanne near the line for a neck verdict in the Singapore Summer Stakes. Paul Morrison, representing the winning owner. Ahmed Al Maktoum, said: They went too fast and played into our hands." Bollio Joanne's effort here

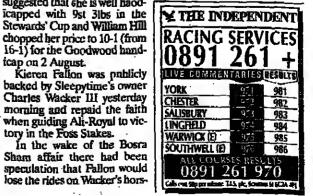
suggested that she is well handicapped with 9st 3lbs in the Stewards' Cup and William Hill chopped her price to 10-1 (from 16-1) for the Goodwood handican on 2 August. Kieren Fallon was publicly backed by Sleepytime's owner

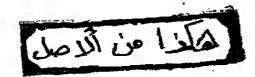
Charles Wacker III yesterday morning and repaid the faith when guiding Alt-Royal to victory in the Foss Stakes. In the wake of the Bosra Sham affair there had been

of Greenbay stables. Ali-Royal, trained by Henry up and may now tackle the Su-

sex Stakes at Goodwood. "Ricren said he won it as he liked and I know Henry is thinking about the Sussex Stakes." Wacker's racing manager, Tote Cherry-Downes,

"His dam, Alidiva, is responsible for just three horses to race. The other two are Sleepytime and Taipan and they've all done well."





Oxx to end the O'Brien monopoly

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Racing has its Triple Crown but it does not, as yet, have an achievement which deserves to be called a Grand Slam. If anyone in Europe could be expected to come up with one, however, it is surely Aidan O'Brien, who has already broken almost every record on the Irish turf, and by tomorrow at around 6-1, against the 6-4 evening could well he four- available about Yashmak, fifths of the way towards a remarkable clean-sweep of Ireland's Classics.

Victory for one of O'Brien's three runners in tomorrow's Irish Oaks at the Curragh would leave just the Irish St Leger, probably the weakest of the lot, to complete his set for 1997, following the earlier successes of Classic Park in the Irish 1,000 Guineas and Desert King in both the 2,000 Guineas and Derby.

There will he those whn would argue that the most exciting young talent in any sport to appear in Europe this week will be Tiger Woods, but while he may not be able to boast the endorsement contracts or the million-dollar smile (or any sort of smile, for that matter), O'Brien appears every hit as likely to set new standards for

many years to come. It makes it all the more interesting that it is the pre-eminent British trainer of the previous generation, Henry Cocil, who will saddle Yashmak, the principal rival to O'Brien's team of Strawberry Roan, Family Traditioo and Shell Ginger tomorrow afternoon,

Unlike several members of her family, Yashmak failed to reach the frame in the Oaks at Epsom last month, finishing fourth behind her stablemate Reams Of Verse, but she then made light of the supposed disadvantage faced by Oaks who catches the eye. runners in Royal Ascot's SOUTHERLY WIND (oap Ribblesdale Stakes, winning 4.15), trained by Lynda Rams

by nine lengths. The bare form of that race outstanding chance of securing Royal Ascot, oo ground which a Group One victory at the end was probably too soft and over of what has been a very difficult a trip (a mile and a half) which week, yet it was Yashmak's first was probably a furlong or two victory in Group company and it came on rain-softened ground, which must be cause for rail in one), he should find toconcern given that the going at day's trip and going ideal, and the Curragh is expected to be on

the fast side of good.

A sound surface could also prove to be bad news for the connections of Brilliance, who finished third in the Prix de Dicost of IR£25,000.

In fact, all three of the lead-

prefer an easier surface, and it may pay to take them all on with Ebadiyla, John Oxx's filly suffered from inexperience and a less than perfect ride when backed down to 15-2 for the Oaks at Epsom, but still finished less than two lengths behind Yashmak. That was only the third race of her career, and with only normal improvement, she must go close to reversing the form tomorrow. Certainly,

ther persuasion. If O'Brien's Classic run comes in an end, he should at least be able to contemplate the start of another when King Of Kings, already 6-1 favourite for next year's 2,000 Guineas, contests the main supporting event, the Anglesey Stakes.

value-seekers will need on fur-

The big race of the weekend in Britain is the John Smith's Magnet Cup at Ynrk, a white-

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Game Ploy (York 4.15) NB: So intrepid (York 4.45)

hot contest which often tends to reflect the rough-and-tumble in the Knavesmire's bars with a series of bumps and blocks out on the track. This should be borne in mind before anyone gets involved with the gamble which has seen Pasternak, unraced this season, backed from 8-1 to 3-1 this week, and that after Sir Mark Prescott, his trainer, com-mented that "8-1 is short enough" after the first prices appeared.

Sir Mark, of course, is one of the shrewdest handlers in the country, and Pasternak may well be ready to run for his life today, but it is a runner from ooe of the few yards which can match Prescott's for canniness den, caught the eye when finishing in mid-divisioo in the ves Cecil and Kieren Fallon an King George V Handiap at too far. Drawn well in stall two (just outside Pasternak, on the must be worth a bet at around

Another of Mrs Ramsden's runners. Stackattack (3.10), should also benefit from a return to a sound surface after ane (French Oaks) after a dif-floundering in the mud at Newficult . run and has been castle last time, and the stable supplemented this week at a will also have high hopes of Top Cees in the Foster's Silver Cup. though Better Offer (next best ing fancies for the race might 3.40) may have his measure.

4.20 KE DANGAN STUD IRISH OAKS (GRO £200,000 added 3YO filles 1m 4f	DE 1) BEC2
. 13.1 ARSOLITE CLEE (USA) (36) D Weld 90	
315- ALTVA (21) (CD) FOX 9 0 3 2-1113 BRELIANCE (FIG (25) (FIF) P Bary (FI) 8 0	
A CARDAD CAREER BASE MED (TR ROBER 9 D	
5 130 EMOTTA (37) (G) J Ox 90 313-85 ETORE (RQ (37) P Chapple Hyam (68) 90	MANU 5
8 31.44 SHELL GROUER (40) (8F) A P O'Rinn 9 0	
10 210101 WA VERBANO (15) (C) J 80(85 90	
BETTING: 6-4 Yeshmak, 7-2 Brilliance, 11-2 Skrawbery Roan, 3-1 Elec	dyle, Etolle, 10-1 Absorbi
Gion, 16-1 Calassal Rus, Family Tradition, 20-1 others 1880: Darce Design 9 O M J Kingne 9-2 (D Weld) drawn (1) 8 cm	

3.10: Zelda Zonk is a long-shot who appears to be coming to hand, but a high draw can often be a disadvantage here. Lynda Ramsden has the company of raking this strong prospects of taking this prize with one of her two low-drawn runners, Stackattack and IRISH ACCORD. The former's poor display last time can be ignored as he hated the mud at Newcastle. The selection, very much the dark horse here, raced on slow ground in the Britannia Stakes at Royal Ascot and looks well handicapped.

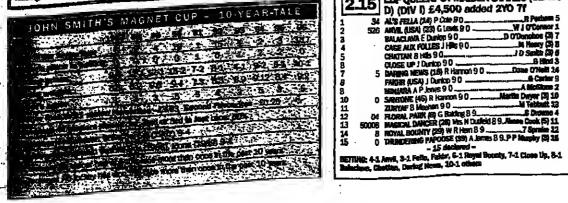
3.40: A tricky event and it would be folly to ignore the claims of the vet-eran, Further Flight, who has retained his form this season. If the rain stays away, however, BE-NATOM may have 100 much speed at this distance.

 α 4.15: There has been considerable behind Pasternak and Komi, but there would seem to be no value in taking the short prices available this believed. So Intrepld is a danger.



morning for this pair. Sharp Con sai represents a stable in excellent form but is probably best with cut nd. At 40-1 in some lists in the ground. At 40-1 in some lists. SECRET ALY appeals as an eachway bet for small atakes. Clive Brittain's yard appears to be run-ning into form and this sevenyeaar-old is handily drawn near the inside rails.

4.45: Yet another big-field handi-cap, of the kind bookmakers revel BAYIN can finish with a flourin. BAYIN can finish with a nour-ish off a strong early pace — which he looks certain to get here. This



YORK HYPERION 2.00 Merlin's Ring 4.15 Secret Alv 2.35 Tracking 4.45 Bayin 3.10 Irish Accord 5.15 Socket Set 3.40 BENATOM (nap)

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places). STALLS: SI & El – Ler skie; 71 – stando skie; n DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Mark-hand, U-shaped course. Plut and ideal for the powerful galloper.

Course is 1m S of cay on Alusia. York station 1m. ADMISSEON: County Stand 518 (16-23 year-olds 512): Taker-olds 510; Saver Hing 52 (OAPs 52-50), CAR PARIC Free.

LEADING TRADIERS WITH RUNNERS: 16 Shoule - 25 winners from 125 runners gives specess ratio of 20.9% and a profit to a £1 level stake of \$25.89; If Cecil = 24 winners, 36 rumers, 35.5%. -58.77: J Gooden - 18 winners, 94 runners, 20.2%, -518.16; J Danlop - 18 winners, 92 runners, 19.0%, -519.31.

LEADING JOCKETS: L Dettori - 42 wms, 185 rides, 22.7%, +\$44.13; Pat Eddery -34 wins, 199 rides, 17,1%, £18,03; J Beid - 22 wins, 153 rides, 14.4%, £30.41; W II Swinburn - 19 wins, 130 rides, 14.6%, £58.88, SLIVIKERED FIRST TIME: Mailla (4.45); Blint Bridge (5.15). WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Major Change (4.16) has been sent 270 miles by Miss Gay

Telleway from Whitecombe, Dorset. 2.00 JERNAULX MEDIAN AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS E) £5,000 added 2YO 6f

EMPIRE PARK (17) for T G Holdstatt M Johnston 90 ... HERATHYANDS SHIBLE (33) (AF L. A Morphol P Foliathead 8 0... HERATHYANDS SHIBLE (33) (AF L. A Morphol P Foliathead 8 0... HERATHYANDS SHIBLE (33) (AF Romaid Hower K McAultin 8 0... MERILIN'S SHIBLE (13) (AE Romaid Purmine & Partners) (Balaing 8 0... MERILIN'S SHIBLE (13) (AF Romaid Marchal Mar J. Remodern 9 0... MANASSYC (22) (AF Rogal Humbrol Mar J. Remodern 9 0... O PERCY 40) DOS O N. Steele J. Brotomiey 9 () ...

8 REQUESTOR (6) 68) Fig. Naturalisa in J. PricGeoid 8

D ROI DE DANSE (1/4) Our A N. Miler J. Hills 8 () ...

SEAMP SHOOTER (51) Mile D. Rickey Min J. Romstein 9 () ...

BOLLIN AND ALOY HESDOWN F. Existency 8 () ...

DEKEL SMARY (Mr. Derick, Mosson J. Balding 8 () ...

SHOOTER PERCENSES (John Smith's Linh J. ProCessid 8 () ...

STATULA Chylere Raceg (Linh) P. Nation 8 () ...

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STATULA Chylere Raceg (Linh) P. Nation 8 () ...

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- Linh AT THE TOP (Ans. E. Roberts) 8 Hills 8 () ... taller J FasGerald & D ____ Quipu 13 _H HBs 2

RETTING: 3-1 Merile's Ring, 4-1 Empire Paris, 6-1 Medding Bend, 7-1 Requestor, 8-1 Newtesly, Rol de Danne, Up At The Top, 10-1 others. 1996: Pun 2 8 9 W Carson 15-8 by (D Mortey) depun (B) 8 ran FORMA GRINDE FORM GUIDE.

Alanh Johnston's juveniles come on for their first run and EMPRIE PARK has a fine choice after numbing green and stoying on in third to Mark Prescott's well-backed newcomer Eloquent at Castele. Mertin's Ring is an assured improver in the hends of Franke Detton after starting at 20-1 when second in a monster field to Ben Rinnes at Windsor. The form may not be much, but he's a son of Magic Ring so should like this faster ground. Requestor was backed to favourism on his debut at Beverley. The ground was dire and Requestor shaped racely racing on the apposite side of the course to the winner, Two Walsams, who got a fiver from the tape start. With the race seemingly not that strong, any move in the ring for such as Up At The Top and Statum should be weighed.

Selection: EMPIRE PARK

EXCLUSIVE CAFE BAR AT WAKEFIELD CONDITIONS STAKES 2.35 (CLASS B) £10,000 added 2YO 7f 0122 CUMERUN CURUSO (12) (Cumbrian Industrials Ltd) T Env OT.2 COMMINIOR CARDES (24) (IN CARDES THE CONTROL OF THE SECOND OF THE S

SETTING: 10-11 Tracking, 5-2 The Glow-Worm, 11-2 Proce, 8-1 Cumbries Gareso, 10-1 Wiscome George. 1996: Sehne (USA) 2 9 1 W Cerson 1-6 for U Dunlep) drawn (3) 2 ran

2596: Sohm (USA) 2 9 1 W Corson 1-6 for U Dunlop) drawn (3) 2 no PORMA GUIDE

Henry Cecil's Machievellian colt TRACKING had little to beet (four filtes) at Nortinghem, but did so in the style of a stayer, He took time to get into top gear, but won costly in the end and will improve for this extra furiong. The pace of Prose was evident on the all-weather 12 days ago when he beast e Mark Prescott hotpot. Prose is improving and his entirer good socond to Alcondeigh was boosted when their colt ran so well at the weights against the well-regarded John Dunlop newcorner Tajesur at Doncaster. The Glow-Worm won at 25-1 hom fellow newcorner Matata over this trip at Newmarket a formight ago so it's safe to suggest he has more in the locker, Cumbrian Carasso was the last horse to bear Mark Prescott's useful Mountain Song, And he's back on level terms with rivels today after good runs when concading weight to The Rich Man at Portefract and Royal Dream at Ripon. Wissoma Goorgie has taken off since getting this trip, but was two lengths behind Prose in the Alcondeigh rice.

Selection: TRACKING

3.10 JOHN SMITH'S BITTER HANDICAP (CLASS C) 68,000 added 7f - 18 decimen Minimum weight: 7s 10h. The hardsop weight: Six Donchy 7s 6h.
BETTINK: 7-1 Royal Mark, Stacksthack, 8-1 Grey Ringdom, Irish Accord, 9-1 Paricins, 12-1 Terfam,
Whiter Scoot, 14-1 Anonyan, Bollin Donchy, Delta Soleit, Tainliid, 18-1 Mouche, Perstain Pagra, Zaidin Zook, 29-1 Present Chance, 25-1 others.

1996: Nestan Pard 6 8 10 M Deering 12-1 (Mr. V Acondy) Grann (7) 12 cm

FORM GLIDE A high draw may not be ideal for PERSIAN FAYRE, but he is still in with a fine chance having won on the course and distance last season. He's in a weaker grade after his second to Weypoint at Doncaster and Kevin Darley is beck altoand after Person Fayre's latest un with an apprentice in unsustable ground at Novcastro. Present Chence, who is well drawn and with Michael Roberts booked, count go well at a price. His recent form is best general fail. weather and moments uponed, cours go wer at a price. His recent form is best ignored tol-weather and minimum tripl and earlier seconds to Welspang. Elnadim and litusion all sug-gested that seven-fictings was his tip. Grey Magdoes has been bucky in drawing the one stall and is sure to go close again – the grey overcoming had ground to beat Chickanicka at Epsom ten days ago. Zeida Zenk finds the tip taleout and won with 10st at kempton last season. She has our in the degree of last to the control and won with 10st at kempton last or epotin ten early ago. Zeron Zeron mos the trip topal and won with 10st at nemption last season. She has put in two decent efforts at Sandown recently, though she hasn't been too lucky with the draw (15). Royal Mark wit nave a following from stall see. This is his best chance since joining David Barron, and he went well beland Tedourrow nere last time when the six-furlong trip would have been too sharp. Stackartack, Iriah Accord and Mouche 50. the Set-Uniting trip would have been tool step), accelerations, may reduct all measures as the forty-independent of the ground to rapy against him at Newcastle lact time behind to Melt, while hish Accord has a habit of ranging, but is a useful sort and Alan Munto could well turn out to be an ideal partner for him. Tertham, second to to Mell in the Newcastle race, is probably better over a mile. Tim Easterby's horses are an great form and Ballo. Dorotby has been numming well over six futions, while the in-lorin Particles has the draw to Sigure, and Amonym and Winter Scout are others tisely to go well with their low stell'sts.

	3.40	FOSTER'S SILVER CUP RATED HANDICAP (CLASS C4 A) £20,000 added 1m 5f 194yds
1	0100-0	BETTER OFFER (24) flasty Harrison; Alta A Perrett 5 9 7
2	303-22	PLEGINER FLIGHT (50) (CD) IN'S Wingleid Digby B Hills 11 94
3	3620-3	POLIARE (USA) (25) (D) (Shelic Monomore) J Gosden 6 9 2
4	314-04	SNOW PRINCESS (52) flord themstook Lord Humangton 5 8 12
5		CUFF LINK (22) (D) Good Werstroy W R Hern 8 10 R Cockrane 8 205
8	05-215	TOP CEER (14) (BF) Our R & Sangsten Mrs J Rameden ? 8 8
7	151-03	WILLIE CONQUER (24) (Mr Raymond Tooth) R Aleburs 6 8 i
8		REPUTION (USA) (LA) (D) (La T F Harrist H Cecil 4 B 7
9		MATCHWAN (293) (Sheikh Matchmed) M Johnston 4 6 7
145	Imretti tettidi	his Dry 7th Torre transfers a mouthly Decision & Matterior Set 6th

SETTING: 4-1 Parther Fight, 5-1 Top Coes, 12-2 Sensition, 13-2 Sense Princess, 7-1 William Conquer, 8-1 Politari, 12-1 Matheman, 14-1 Batter Office, Carl Link, 1996; Celenc 4-9 7 W Casson evens to 10 Moneys drawn (5) 5 rats FORM GUIDE

FORM CLIDE

The drying continuous may court against Top Gees and Snow Princess, so the race is likely to concern Willia Conquer, Poltarf and BENATOM. It's not often Henry Ceci has a bottom weight in a handicap and Benatom has faced two stiff tasks in soft ground since his opering fourth to Jhyush at Goodwood. He certainly took a distinct the visco them humboring a big weight in the Northumberland Plate and he can take this on his gutsy was of hist season. Poltarf is another proven stayer, but he also seems to prefer to get his toe in and the ground was soft at Mascons-Laffitte when he har an well in tisned company three weeks.

By Wille Conquer, a fire third to Zarabaska when badly drawn in the Bestborough, has every hope of staying this longer top being by Master Willia. Top Cees won his second Chester Cup in the soft and the weight best him in the Northumberland Plate, He has won on fast ground and connections are stiff sweet on a fit at the Ebor over this time with him. Further ground and connections are still sweet on a bit at the Ebor over this top with him. Further Flight may lack the pace over this trip on fast ground, while Snow Princess can be ruled out on this type of surface, along with Culff Link and Mattawen first run of seasons.

4	.15	38TH JOHN SMITH'S MAGNET CUP (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £60,000 added 1m 2f 85yds
1	20-364	KEY TO MY HEART (28) (60) (Mrs Maureon Polieting) Miss S Holl 7 10 0 J Wester 9 107
2	5-0510	PRINCE OF MY HEART (86) (C) Mr G J Hide) 8 Hills 4 9 9
3		WAHEA SANDS (24) (Lord Snoything) J Duntop 4 8 13
4		BALL SOWN (51) (D) (Mr C V Lines) O Thorn 7 B 13 D R McCabe 4 109
5		KUALA LIPIS (USA) (24) (C) IN R H Sultan Ahmad Sheh) P Cole 4 8 13 T Quien 20 102
8	/12-36	HUMOURLESS (24) (D) (BF) (Sheld) Mohammed L Cumoni 4 8 12 L Dettor 6 116
7	301265	MAJOR CHANGE (95) (D) (Two in One Partnership) Gay Mellentry 5 8 11 K Fallow 18 112
8	12-300	NAM MUBEEN (24) (0) (Sheld) Armed A Maktourn) A Stewart 4 8 10 M Roberts 19 109
8		GAME PLOY (21) (D) Our Keven R Myrasson) O Hayon Jones 5 8 10 R Cockerson 5 108
20		STAR MANAGER (USA) (21) (M. M. Arob) P Cole 784 M PM. 8 99
11	5-1550	ANOTHER TIME (24) (D) (N/ O Sulhern) 5 Woods 58 4
12		SECRET ALY (CMI) (15) (D) (Mr 8 H Vock) C Britain 7 8 3 J Carroll 3 212
13	20311	PASTERMAK (278) (CD) (Mr Graham Rock) Sir M Prescott 483
24	0-021F	WATER (21) (D) ON Kerneth MacPresson) P Calver 58 3 Decree Molthet (3) 16 112
15	2312	KOMI (25) (Sheliki Menammed) M Stoute 381F Lyoch 17 115
10	018-22	SHARP CONSUL (57) (D) (Mrs David Blackburn) H Cardy 58 1
17	/05513	BAY OF ISLANOS (21) (CD) (Boomsbury Study O Mons, S 7 13
18	63-013	FAHS (USA) (85) (D) (BF) (City Industrial Supplies Ltd) R Alehorst 5 7 13,
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LINGFIELD

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm m places).

Left-hand, sharp undulating course.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME; Tearpista (4.001.

Melodica

2.20 Elaysha 2.55 Mahboob 3.25 Ivory's Joy 4.00

Cadeaux Tryst 4.35 Nant Y Gamer (nb) 5.05

STALLS: Stratety - stands side: 1m1f - inside: 1m6f - outside.

Course is SE of town on B2028. LingBeld station (served by London, Victoria) adjoins course. ADMISSION: Members \$13,

WINNERS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: On Never Again (3.25) sem 270

niles by M Johnston from Middleham, North Yorkshire: Summer

Thyme (2.201 & Nant Y Gamer (4.35) sent 268 miles by J Berry

2.20 NATASHA GLYNNE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 1f

5 ELITTERNIG (12) C Brazon 38 11 ______ B Doyle 6
C2- LABEQ (280) P Websyn 38 11 ______ Pet Balcoy 7
ELATSHA H Ceci 38 6 ______ W Ryan 5
RUMEZ E DANDO 38 6 ______ Pet Balcoy 7
ELATSHA H Ceci 38 6 ______ W Ryan 5
RUMEZ E DANDO 38 6 ______ J Reid
D SUMMER THYRIE (14) J Borry 38 6 _____ T E Dancon (5) 2
____ B declared _____
ETING: 8-5 Boysia, 11-4 Winth Chord, 9-2 Labeq, Ramouz, 20-1 Varetility, Gillering, 25-1 Mart's Magic, Biction Park, 33-1 Summer Thyms.

2.55 EBF SURREY NOVICE STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 270 71

3.25 RUNART CHAMPAGNE NURSERY HAND-ICAP (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2YO 6F

431. OPPOSITION LEADER (18) (D) 5 Has 9 2 164. BALLET RANBERT (15) M Histori-Elis 8 :

TARASHAAN SI'M Prescott 8 12 THREE ANGELS M Tompkes 8 12 ...

Family Enclosure 59. CAR PARE: Club 53; remainder free.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High usually best 5f to 7f 140yds.

0.3214 DRSAY (7) (D) (BF) (Mr D J Deer) W Mcz 5 7 12 ... 20 Michram weath, 7g 10th, The handoo weights Southern Kind 7st 6th.

ASSETTING 7-2 PROGRAMM, 31-2 Komi, 8-1 (Humorutous, Southerty Wind, 14-1 Boy Of Islando, Fahs, Games Ploy, Cresty, 18-1 Shorp Consul, Water, 20-1 Another Time, Stor Manager, Wahiba Sonda, 25-1 Ball Gover, James Assert, Kurdo Lipis, Najm Muhasa, Sacret Aly, 33-1 others.

1998: Water 3 5 8 2 Pot Eddery 10-1 IP Mahin Grant (2-17 ron FORM GUIDE

For the second year running Michael Stoute has the second in the Britainne Hendrene at Royal Assot, And if KOBR turns out as good as insufacilie this Magnet Cup is all over with the galding shouldering Just 8st 1to. Stoute used Forgal Lynch to land the Ebor with Clorkenthe georg shouldering hose at 25 showle used horizon typich to land the Ebor with Contentuell, and Lynch won on Korn at Thirsk prior to his staying on second to Fly to The Stats in the Bozzania. Korn comes from a family of ten-furtong winners so is virtually guaranteed to reliably the top. Like Korni, Pasternals is a son of Societ Star. All the money has been for him this week - a sure sign that Mark Prescort has him in top condition. He overcame plenty of this week is do collect on this course that October, though my one concern is today's faster ground. Homourtees looks sure to go well for the in-form Luca Cumpau after his south to stablemate Zarakiska in the Bessborough. This shorter top looks more his more as the was besten only a head by Dombey over the course and distance early last season. Orsaly had his wrong ground last time and is closely matched with Game Play on previous Sandown nouses wanting ground was term offer is closely matched with Geme Play on previous Sandown questing, while the best outsider is Chester wanter Bay Of balanda, who can woll with a big weight at Radicar afterwards.

_		MONEACTI E DOMAN ALE HANDIOAD (ALACE OL TITALI
14	.45	NEWCASTLE BROWN ALE HANDICAP (CLASS C) C4
_		
1		ZIENAR (5) (D) (Cayton Bigory Portnership Ltd) O McCom 4 20 0
2		OGGI (22) (D) (Skyline Ricang Lidi P Malun 6 9 11
3		DAAME (USA) (14) (CD) (Ats Andres M Usalinson) Ars V Apprily 69 6. M Deering 21. 54
4	101351	PALACEGRIE TOUCH (8) (D) I Laurel (Lersure) Limited) J Berry 7 95_C Londhor (7) 3 6 90
5	044-25	SAINT EXPRESS (15) (C) (D) UNI O 5 Hall Urs M Reveloy 7 9 4 A Culture 22 94
6	033031	SO HOTREPED (11) (D) (A5 : A Hawaru J Bradey 7 9 4
7	201-04	FARAMAY LASS (32) (CO) Atr J Roset Lard Huntangton 4 9 1
8	0-2200	PRIMA SELK (Q (D) (Norcost Park Sout) M Ryon 6 B 10
3	-000000	MARIE (14) (CD) A'r H7 Duttini TO Barron 489
10	1-5422	MATURAL KEY (24) (D) (89) (Mr Hugh O'Donnell) O Hayen Jones 488A Mackey 20 98
11	331950	BENEZOE (13) (CD) (AZ Yory Facceto Mrs.) Recressor 7 8 6
12	000601	BANK (USA) (IA) (D) (At Treat Banks) M (Mrs. 885
13	402-06	MARSAD (61) (8F) (Canado), Boocatock Ltd: R Alichura 3 B S.,
14	630363	BEE HEALTH BOY (5) (D) (See Health Ltd) M W Eastern, 4.85 G Parkin (8) 6.8 &
15	0-0625	THENAAB (28) (D) (Air J D System F Masson 5 8 4
:6	330300	STYLE DANCER (5) (D) (Atr. C A Hoggests) R Whysica 3.83
27	415411	RULL LAD (9) (D) (Mr 8 Sharet / J Quenn 3 82 J Lines 5 84
18	0-45	VIAN CHINO (35) (Barriaghe Stud Ltd) 8 McMahan 3 8 2
19	5-0050	11-HO-HARRY (28) (D) (Adr D Cosported) R Hotelshead 4 B 1 F Lynch 1 91
20	214000	FOIST (SI) (ID) (Id) O F Spence: M W Easterby 5 8 0
21	010000	HALMANERROR (9) (C) (D) INDS J Smith (Lincoln)) L2s J Romadon 7 7 10 J Quian 4 86
22	004112	MISSTER WESTSOUND (B) (D) (O Suthertand) Alss L Pottott 5 7 10 N Kermedy 19 6 96
		- 22 declared -
Alle	ACC.	ne: Tat 10th. True handkop wegins: Affater Wessburid Tat 3th.
		and and but the state of the same to the s

Alexandria degree 15 1021. (AP GESCH) degree Negative Section 15 30.
BETTREE: 9-1 Oggi, 10-1 Bayle, Threath, 22-1 Bestoo, Halmonerro, Hersad, Russ Lad, 14-1 Feraury Lass, Mallin, So Direpid, Style Dancer, 16-1 Bee Health Boy, Dance, Habural Key, Palacegain Touch, Saint Especie, U-No-Harry, 20-1 Feixt, 33-1 others.

1998: Double Spiendour 6 9 9 N Date, 4-1 Lz. (P Feiggel fiction 13) 18 ran FORM GUIDE

BAYIN looks as good as any in this incidence of a sornt. He's well hondicapped, goes on fast ground and returned to form at Both a fortnight ago to beat Friendly Bravo, it is difficult to assess the effect of the draw in the sprint but Selett Expresse must have closms from stall 22. The try 65th proved too sharp for him test time and his previous showings against Daswe at Redcar puts him right in the picture on form. Daswe likes this course and he had the Orgal wing against him last time, behind Cretan Gift at Newcasto, if the for side hold the call orgal will go close, Ogg does prefer a bit of cut in the ground, but his fourth in the Wolvingham off a similar mark tooks all the better with good runs since from Dancard and Boffur Incidence.

5	.15	FISHERGATE NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS C) £7,500 added 2YO 5f
1	34111	BABY CRAND (21) (D) (Mrs D E Sharp) T D Barrott O 7
2	2135	HEREST BREDGE (37) (D) (Mr I Broys M W Easterby 9 5
3		SOCKET SET (14) (D) (Mr.) C Fretwell 8 McMatton 9 5
4	452	MYSTICISM (12) (Mis C E Britan) C Britain 8 12 Deltori 6
5	41031	PENNIEESS (31) (0) Consider Lieb N Tinker 8 11
6	044	CRAND ESTATE (14) (At Ian Astrology) T Easterly 8 2 K Darley 1
7	3500	ADREMALIN (26) (Mr Yony Favcott) Mrs J Romsden T 10
		- 7 riseland -

— r cocared —
Minerum weight: 7st 10th, fine handlesp weight: Adversin 7st 6th,
BETTINK: 11-4 Nystician, 3-1 Buby Grand, 9-2 Penalists, 5-1 Grand Esinte, 8-1 Hint Bridge, 7-1
Socket Sot, 8-1 Adversile. 1996; Top Of The Form 2 8 5 7 Williams 7-2 jt lav (M Johnston) desum (1) 8 mm

FORM GUIDE.

Bryan McMahon had 8 good ides what he had in SOCKET SET when the filly made her de-Bryan McMchon had a good idea what he had in SOCKET SET when the fifty made her de-but at Southwell last menth, Backed from 10-1 to 5-2 fawounts, Socket, Set costly beat Hap-py Doys Again (previously fourth to Princely Helri and looks up to winning a missery after again showing pace to the Empiress Stakes at Newmanket. Grand Estate has shown promise on all starts over six furiongs and is on fast ground for the first time. His dam won over five furiongs as a juvenile and Grand Estate could be in here light, Hind Bridge is in blinkers of-ter facing two stiff tastis since his Carlisle win, but Bably Grand and Periodless may find this a bit too hot. Mystickes hes been folding in her races, but this fester surface will suit her better and Frankee Dettori rode a winner (Greenlander) for Chie Brittain ten days ago. Selection: SOCKET SET

2.10 Fast Franc 2.45 Ramike 3.15 Ya Malak 3.50

Just Another Time 4.25 Islamabad 4.55 Gymcrak Premiere STALLS: 1m 2f - stands side; remainder - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: Low numbers best up to 1m.

Left-hand, tight, circular course. Not suitable for long-striding. Course is near centre of city on A548. Chester General station Im. ADMISSION: County Enclosure S18 (Juniors up to 17 £3); Tattersalls £10; Dee Sound £4; Course £2. CAR PARE: £2.

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Vax Ster (3.16); Narrogin (visured, WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Ya Malak (3.15) wun

at Sandown on Saturday. LONG-DESTANCE RUNNERS: Northern Motto (2.45) & Keep Bazthing (4.65) sent 225 miles by J Goldie from Unlawmoor, Strathelyde.

2	10	BROXTON NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £5,000 added 2YO 7f
1	222204	OUT LINE MAGIC (12) P Bare 97
2	46D	MARROGIN (36) M Charmon 9 1 Portune 10 V
3	504	RED MAPLE (28) P Cole 91F Norton 8
4		LORD SMITH (8) (D) M Pipe 8 1 Procesy (3) 1
5		LORD OF LOVE (7) T Easterby 8 11 Down McKernen 6
8		FAST FRANC (11) S C Williams 894
7	60512	ARM AND A LES (32) (EP) C Dayer 8 6
8	0402	FLAME TOWER (2) R Hannon 8 5 Psol Editory 2
9	030	GRALLMAND (18) N Lamoden 8 1 Date Clason 5
10	1203	EDNA'S GET (11) (BP) J Bony 7 11
BET	TING: B-1	Lord Smith, Fast Franc. 6-1 Flame Tower, 7-1 Out Like Mag-

ic, Red Maple, Arm And A Lag, Educ's Gift, 8-1 offers. 2.45 CHESTER SUMMER HANDICAP (CLASS D)

_		TRUMO SOCIECI TILI 11 TRONOS
L	606110	DANCING CAVALER (IA) R Holleshedd 4 9 10
	-06606	WARRING REEF (16) P Endes 4 9 7R Hoghes 7
1	33-032	REX MICHON (8) (8F) P Bare 59 2
ı	0-1112	RAMBE (7) M Johnston 3 9 2 Deen McKernen 8
•		HERE COMES RETURE (57) (D) (SF) W Storey 5 9 0
3	3-1530	CREAT CRATION (25) (CD) F Wasson 8 9 0
•	043212	TRILBY (12) (D) (18) G Richards 4 8 13,P Roberts (5) 1 V
	443106	MORTHERN MOTTO (15) J Golde 4 88
•		GENERAL MOURCIAR (11) M Pice 7 8 7
o	03211-	BOLD ELECT (276) E Alexon 9 8 7
_		EUPHORIC ELUSION (17) (87) Mrs 6 Smith 6 7 11 2
1	20-040	
		- 11 declared -
Œ	TING: 9-2	Resolve, 5-1 Yelley, 11-2 Here Comes Herbie, 6-1 Res Mun-

SALISBURY

HYPERION

2.15 Royal Bounty 2.50 Charnwood Jack 3.20

Wild Sky 3.55 Statajack 4.30 Silver Strand

'N Sowert (5.00). WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Silver Strand (4.30) won

at Northgham on Sunday. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: Sun Of Spring (3.66) has been rest 252 miles by D (Tappman from Sullingson, North Yorkshire.

34 AUS FELLA (J.I) P Cole 90 R Perions 5
526 AMR. (J.SA) (23) G Losis 90 W J O'Chreson 1
BALACJAMA E Danley 90 D O'Chreson 91
CASE AUX FOLLES J | Bis 90 M Heavy 318
LD Switch 208 A

HENLARIA P Jones 9 0 Martin Dayer (3) 10
SARSTONE (45) R Harmon 9 0 Martin Dayer (3) 10
ZIRYAN 8 Medium 9 0 Mi Tebbast 33
64 FLORAL PART (8) G Bating 8 9 Stream 4
50006 MAGECAL DANCER (28) Mis M Dudleti 8 9 Minos Cook (5) 11
8 ROYAL BOUNTY (29) W R Hern 8 9 7 Sprains 22
0 DRINGERING PAPODEE (36) A Lernes 8 9. P P Marghy (3) 15

5.00 Sizzling 5.30 Desert Arrow

3.15 CITY WALL CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £25,000 added 5f 143300 BOLSHOI (7) (0) J Berry 5 8 2... 331332 BISHOPS COURT (21) (C) (D) (BF) Mrs.) Hamadan 3 8 9. 8 425-35 BLUE BRIS (95) (D) (BF) M Jave 4 8 9 ______Pad Bitlery 9 210-00 VAX STAR (28) (D) J Spearing 3 8 4 _____Dean McKeown 3 B _____ P doctared = BETTRIS; 5-2 Bishops Coert, 7-2 Strugger, 4-1 Ya Melaik, 7-1 Blue Iris,

3.50 ERF MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £6,000 added 2YO 5f

34	HUNTSWOOD (28) (SF) R Hannon 9 0R Hughes, 4
34	JUST ANOTHER TIME (24) J Boty 90P Roberts (5) 5
302	TAKE A TURN (5) M Channon 80
05	BLARNEY PARK (25) C Duyer 8 9
	FARMOON PRINCESS R Hollinshead 8 9 Paul Eddery 1
	TRUE TO TIME I Easterby 8 9 Down McKnown 6
	- 6 decimed -
NE 2-1	Huntgenod, 11-4 Just Another Time, 7-2 Take A Term, 11-
- T- T-	as 44 5 Clarence Dark 46.1 Carnello Brincase

2	.25	WATERGATE STREET GALLERY CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS C) £8,000 addition 270 6f
1	031	DEPOSIBLE (14) (D) W Storey 9 1
2		ISLAMABAD (28) G Leve, 9 1
3		JEANNY TOO (17) (C) 8 McMahon 9 1 J Fortune 2
4		MARTON MOSS (SWE) (12) 7 Eastery 9 1
-		Doog McKeows I
5	05	SQMOSERRA (86) / Berry 8 11
8		HEAVENLY ABSTONE (7) (BF) PEvers 8 10
		kinemahad, 4-1 Marton Moss, 5-1 Somusierra, 11-2 Descee
200	. 7-1 floor	IN Too. Houseoly Abstone.

4.55 CHESHIRE YEDMANRY HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 1m 2f 75yds 1 -14005 GYNACRAK PREMIERE (15) (D) G Holmes 9 9 10

Minimum weight: 7st 1080. The handlesp weight Golde Fish 7st 1360. BETTHEC: 2-1 Brandon Jack, 4-1 Ambilectrous, 9-2 Tonostro, 11-2 Man-Militari, 13-2 Oyucrait Proniers, 8-1 Keep Battling, 10-1 Golden Fish 2.50 FELSTEAD LIMITED STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 6f

063203 TANAFEK (USA) (R) 6 Dow 4 9 6 R Perfect 5 60-000 WESTERN PLAYBOY (LA) R Baker 5 9 6 V Sintlery 3 42-063 MIGHTY Planatine Alica and Line 5 9 6 V Sintlery 3

42-063 NIIGHTY PHANTON (JSA) (SO) J His 4 9 3.... Ji Henry (3) 2 — 6 declared — - 8 declared -SETTIME: 13-8 Mighty Phanton, 3-1 Charantod Jack, 4-1 Prince Destrig, 9-2 Tawafek, 8-1 Alarko, 18-1 Western Playkoy 3.20 GBBS MEW HANDICAP (CLASS D) £6,000 added 3YO 1m

GOING: Good to Firm (Firm in places).

STALLS: Straight – for side: 1m 4f = stands side.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

Bight-hard course, mainly uphill and testing.

Course is 3m SW of thy off A3094. Station (London, Water-loo-Erster line) 3m. Bus service to course. ADMISSION: Members 113. Tatternais 55; Course Englosure 54. CAR PARK: Free.

BIDNEESED FIRST TIME: Mystery Hill (visored) (3.20): Sharp

N. Server (6, 90). 2.15 EBF QUEENPOT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,500 added 2YO 7f CASE AIX FOLLES 1 TO CASE AIX FOLLES (AS A TO CASE AIX FOLLES (AS A TO CASE AIX FOLLES (AS A TO CASE AIX FOLLES A P Jones 9 0 A Martin Dayor (3) 10 CASE AIX FOLLES (46) R KANDON 9 0 Martin Dayor (3) 10 CASE AIX FOLLES (46) R KANDON 9 0 MARTIN DAYOR (3) 10 CASE AIX FOLLES (3) AIX FOLLES (— 13 operato -Minimum weight 7st 10th. True handing weight has Makien 6st 12th. BETTING: 4-1 Disiation, 5-1 Sword Arm, 8-1 Wild Stop, 7-1 Mystery Het, 8-1 Regorat, Olivo, Abajany, Sand Cay, 10-1 others

3.55 CRESTED LARK AMATEURS HANDICAP (CLASS F) £3,300 added 1m 4f 22-110 RISBIG SPRAY (45) (C D BF) C Horgen 6 11 7

A second residence of the seco

15 000-50 BURNING COST (21) R Pezcock 7 9 0 ... Miss C Percock (5) 7 Africanum: Bet. The Heights: Rosal Accident St. So. Burering Cost St. 42.

EETTHG: 11-4 See Freedom, 13-2 Newsy Native, 8-1 Pay Homage, State jack, Foundated, Coursecount Knight, 19-1 Rising Spray, 12-1 others 4,30 MYROBELLA NOVICE AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 6F

5 01 SELVER STRAND (7) TO 8 His 8 10 ______ D Shight (3) 10
6 210 TAMERIN BAY (15) R Boss 8 10 _______ T Speak 4
7 0000 ORSIN (15) No N Dutried 8 9 ______ D Suspenty (5) 9
8 1 PARISSAN LADY (32) (CD) A Newcombe 8 5 _____ G Had 3
9 0060 AFTER DAMN (10) Mrs N Dutried 8 4 ____ Aincel Cook (6) 5
10 3 ROBEDNA (7) C Alen 8 4 _____ Martin Dayer (3) 1
- 10 declared BETTING: 3-1 Phone Alex, 7-2 Silver Street, 6-1 Termerin Bay, 6-1 Eleventh Date, Paristen Lady, Robeson, 10-1 Banthing Vectoria, 12-1 others

5.00 OWEN TUDOR HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 6f 505020 FREEWOLY BRAVE (\$) (D 8F) Gay Hallandy 7 9 11

501500 SHARP 'N SHART (42) (D) 8 Smart 5 9 10 ... M Telstant 10 8 -04655 WHITE SETTLER (15) R Hodges 4 9 8 ... Martin Dwywr (3) 9

5	
-	4.00 DAILY MAIL CLASSIFIED SILVER TROPHY RATED HANDICAP (CLASS A) £20,000 added 7f 140yds
	1 34-210 TRISCARON (24) R Avelurs: 88 7
	2 4-0033 CADEAUX TRYST (24) (D) E Dunlop 5 9 8
y	3 104530 RUSSIAN MUSIC (23) (Cl Goy Meleccy 4 9 4 R Flywich 6
	4 46-265 TSARRISTA (34) (C) J Duntop 4 8 11
	5 23-011 BRAVE KRIS (21) L Cumani 3 8 9 Pat Biddory 3 8 355-30 MOONSHINE GIVE (22) M Strong 3 8 7 Pat Biddory 3 Rold 1
	7 116434 STAR TALENT (7) (0) Baking 6 8 7
	8 145-50 DIVINA LINA (14) (C) J Hills 4 8 7
D	- B declared -
y	Minimum weight: Bat 7th (3yo 7st 12lb), True handleap weights: Sear Talent Bat 6th, Dhina Lune Bat 1th.
	BETTRIG: 15-8 Brave Rris. 9-2 Tregaron, 11-2 Codosux Tryol, Tearnista.
-	Ster Talent, 8-1 Moonshine Girl, 12-1 Russian Music, 20-1 Divina Luna.
;	
-	4.35 ROTHMANS ROYALS NORTH SOUTH CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS
,	CHALLENGE SERIES HANDICAP (CLASS
3	c) £10,000 added 3YO 7f
3	1 316-00 RESDWING (25) (D) J Dunlop 9 7Pat Edday 4
3	
3	3 2146 HAIGKANIYAH (S) D MOREY 9 2
	2 3-6503 PHANGARIVAN (S) D MODEY 9 2
5	5 4-5130 PRAEDITUS (26) (CD) R Hannon 8 11
	8 00-124 GEE BEE DREAM (14) (CD) A laws 8 11
•	7 12 PSPPAIT (17) R Alchura 8 11
_	3 32000 M3600 30000 long (Ma) 0 0 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	10 0-15 EUROLINK PROFILE (22) (D) (85) L Cumani 8 5
)	11 2-0413 TOPATORS (17) (D) M Tomplers 8 4
	12 10-050 MAPPINSE (36) (D) O Prench Davis 8 2
	13 130600 V P CHARLE (5) (BF) Hertors 7 12
	SETTING: 11-4 Penniatt, 5-1 Eurolink Profile, 8-1 Paddy Lad, 7-1 Gee See
	Dream, 8-1 Redwing, 10-1 bory Down, Topatoti, 12-1 others.
	FOR WHITES' WEDDING MAIDEN STAKES
	5.05 WHITES' WEDDING MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £5,500 added 1m 6f
ı	The second secon
	1 O AJCONESE (14) Lady Hernes 4 9 11
	3 ULTIMATE SMOOTHEE (756) M Pipe 5 9 11
	SYHOCKORSYCROOK (A172) K Comerloid 5 9 6
	5 HISBURY PRINCESS R Hodges 4 9 6
	7 0-0 CRYSTAL HILLS (10) J George 3 8 10 A Gards 6 8 0-22 SEATTLE ART (10) (07) H Cock 3 8 10 W Ryon 1
	8 0-22 SEATTLE ART (12) (2F) H Cecil 3 8 10
	9 3-22 MELODICA (29) M Strute 3 85
	RETTING: 10-11 Southle Art. 2-1 Melodica, 8-1 Crystal 1985, 12-1 UR: 1
	ments Seporthie, 14-1 Gobie, 20-1 Hembury Princese, 26-1 Arctic Triumph, 33-1 others.
_	DAT ARIEN
_	

- 16 deciared -BETTING: 13-2 Primady Brave, 7-1 Mercati, 8-1 Palry Prince, Soveralgus Court, Szzing, Pointer, 10-1 Candillo, Scissor Ridge, 12-1 others 5.30 EBF QUEENPOT MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) £4,500 added 270 7f DESCRIT AND ON THE PROPERTY OF

- 1A dectared -BETTROS: 11-4 Queent Arrive, 5-1 Affine Yee Polin, Lattets, 7-1 Green Jack-et, 8-1 Beneventus, Dockelder, Nelsed Det, Night Shot, 12-1 others

Akinwande awakens interest in Lewis

Boxing GLYN LEACH

Even before Mike Tyson's re-volting actions two weeks ago, Lennox Lewis's World Boxing Council heavyweight title de-fence against Henry Akinwande, tonight in Lake Tahoe, snapped up within hours, raising record \$14m gate receipts. Nevada, struggled to convince it was the equal of Tyson's World Boxing Association championship rematch against Evander Holyfield.

"It's as though the whole world thinks there's only two heavyweights. Tyson and Holyfield." Lewis complained.

"Akinwande and myself will he a very very fine boxing match." The figures, however, illustrate the WBC fight's true status. Lewis and Akinwande's combined purse harely exceeds Tyson's \$3m (£1.7m and 10 per cent of his purse) fine for savaging Holyfield. The 16,000 seats for Holyfield-Tyson were

hut cat-swinging will he an available option in the 2,100seat outdoor arena tonight. "It just doesn't have strong enough appeal, it's as simple as that," said Sky Sports' executive Trevor East, explaining why

only the second "all-British" world beavyweight title fight ever will not be the network's latest pay-pet-view venture.

Yet as Lewis says, it is a topquality fight. The champion is possibly the best active heavyweight in the world today, including Holyfield, who would struggle against the sheer size of the oft 5m 1988 Olympic super beavyweight champion (for Canada, where the Londonborn Lewis was raised).

Lewis's first tenure as WBC champion ended surprisingly when, in his fourth defence, he was stopped in two tounds by Oliver McCall in September

1994, his only loss in 31 fights. But be regained the vacant champi-onship in March when McCall re-in Nigeria, resident in Los Anfused to defend himself after five rounds and now, aged 31, Lewis hopes, in the absence of Tyson, to strengthen his claims to be the

world's best in the division.

That the hard-bitting champion is not already a star of the magnitude of Tyson and Holy-field is attributable to Lewi's conservative nature, in and our of the ring. The quality of his opposition, many of whom it has been too easy to find fault with. has hardly helped his cause. Tonight's challenger bas a safery-first style that will never

geles for the past 18 months), has never looked close to losing in 33 professional outings (including one disputed draw, since avenged).
In Britain under Mickey

Duff, Akinwande became Commonwealth and European champion. A switch to the States and the Don King organisation, however, brought Akinwande the World Boxing Organisation title that he defended twice hefore relinquishing in order to become mandatory challenger to Lewis.

Like the champion, Akin-wande bas suffered for his lack of passion, but Duff, for one, believes the challenger has the beating of Lewis. "I'm one of the few people who realise how good he really is and I've put a substantial bet on him to win," Duff said. "But I hate the guy for leaving me and, to be honest, I don't mind if I lose my money on this one." Lewis is the favourite, but his

trainer and co-manager, Emanuel Steward, has warned Lewis to expect the toughest fight of his career. "Akinwande is extremely agile for a man of off 7m, he has great speed of



hand and foot," Steward said. Nevertheless, Lewis is in confident mood and, unusually, faces an opponent taller than

himself, a considerable advan-

tage as Lewis can struggle



against shorter fighters. Akinwande's teach could make life difficult for a while, but the power and presence of the champion is likely to weat him down in around 10 munds.

BENSON AND HEDGES FINAL: First domestic showcase matches a Zimbabwean with two brothers seeking fresh inspiration

Pinch adds a punch for Surrey

DEREK PRINGLE Cricket Correspondent

The first of the domestic showcases - today's Benson and Hedges final between warring neighbours Kent and Surrey has much to recommend it, not least that Lord's will not be playing the haughty aristocrat it does during Test matches. Just as

sighting of the Hollioake brothers since their one-day exploits against Australia in the Texaco Trophy managed to knock the Spice Girls off the front pages. However, will the hysteria, Surrey apart and Kent excepted, be the same as it was during that

heady week in May, when the na-

tion swooned and the bouse of Hollioake received more atten-

well, for it will be the first major

tion than the House of Windsor? Since his audacious announcement against the Aussies at Lord's, Ben, the younger of the brothers, has been largely anonymous, seemingly swallowed up by the soulless treadmill that is still an abiding reality for county cricketers. Only three half-centuries and a bandful of wickets have ensued, performances that do not even hint at the potential of the player who outsmarted the Aussies on that bright and breezy

Sunday at HO. It can be particularly tough for a teenager, bowever laid hack. to so from bannet headlines to an also-ran in small print and not feel betrayed. Being signed to a voracious agent has probably not belped. But while there is little doubt that sportsmen need to be protected from unscrupulous employers, hig talk from flasb men who know little about the game usually does more long-

term harm than good. You only have to consider the confused hut sumptuously talented Chris Lewis, who shares the same agent, to realise the pitfalls. One can only hope, therefore, that a return to the big stage will rehabilitate his betrayed spirit and belp Ben to re-assert his credentials as an all-rounder of special talent.

Similarly brother Adam, who despite having the distractions of captaincy to keep bim occupied, must also be similarly disenchanted. Since his pungent contributions to the Texaco matches, the elder Hollioake has heen stuck in limbo, wait-

ing for his chance of a Test place. It has not come, and though he will settle for a Surrey victory today, his international ambitions could do with an impressive performance, particularly if his captaincy, which can be bold and authoritative, and his batting are to remain in the

selectorial eye. His team, apart from losing twice to Kent this season, are the epitome of a modern one-day outfit, and must start favouriles. Armed with more ninch-hitting options than a Punch and Judy baseball game, their batting is the strongest in

the land, only susceptible when they overdo the gung-ho spir-it. It is an excitability that their Australian coach, Dave Gilbert, will try and temper without compromising confidence.

Even so, with the occasion plus the small fact that Surrey have not won this competition since 1974 - likely to stimulate their trio of Test players, Alec Stewart, Mark Butcher and Grabarn Thorpe, the booming bats of Alistair Brown and Ben Hollioake are likely to try and gorge themselves in the first 15 overs.

It will be Kent's job, particularly the new ball attack of Dean Headley and Martin McCague, to try and prevent Surrey getting the flier that makes them such a feared one-day batting side. Significantly, both bowlers have the pace to make things awkward for those throwing the bat and even on a pitch which ought to be baked to perfection after a week of blazing sunshine, the pair could throw Surrey's game plan into disarray should they take early wickets.

Unusually, both sides will field leg-spinners, with Kent's Paul Strang likely to shade lan Salisbury in the steadiness stakes. Surrey, however, although relying primarily on a bevy of all-rounders to do their bowling, will also include another spinner, Saglain Mushtag. whose peerless off-breaks for Pakistan saw him reach 100 oneday wickets in record time. And yet brilliant though he is. it is 11 years since a spinner (John Emburey) won the gold award in a Lord's final.

Kent's batting, still waiting over a late fitness test on Graham Cowdrey's hamstring, will revolve around the clean striking Trevor Ward, whose duels with Surrey's spinners may well prove to be one of the highlights of the match.

Like their opponents, Kent bat a long way down and a middle order that comprises the likes of Alan Wells, Mark Ealham, Nigel Liong, and ends with the skipper Steve Marsh at nine, is certainly capable of hig runs.

On paper the duel looks to be between Surrey's strokeplayers and Kent's pace bowlers. On the field, it could be down to who is prepared to scrap the hardest. As the Hollioakes have been doing that for most of their lives and are due a renaissance, Surrey should shade it.

I Cy S/IOU/O S/ISUC 17.

Kent (from): M V Feming, M J Walker, D P Futton, T R Ward, A P Wess, M A Eafharn, N J Liong, P A Strang, S A Mush (care, wid., M J McCague, D W Headley, G R Cowdrey, A P Igglesden, J B O Thompson.

Surrey (from): A D Brown, A J Szewert (wid., B C Holisoske, G P Thoppe, A J Holisoske (capt), C G Lewis, M A Butcher, J D Ratciffe, I D K Salusbury, M P Bicknell, Saqiain Mushteq, J E Benjamn.

Umplies: 11 Shepherd and G Sharp. ROUTES TO THE FINAL: Name Group stages or Surrey (The Owal won by Your welvets; or Hamp-shre (Correbusy) won by You welvets; or Sussess (Controllury) won by So. welvets; or British Linear-sable (Controllury) won by Your welless; or Gouces-sable (Controllury) won by Your welless; or Gouces-terstive (Brissol materi assessored, Quester-flue)

Surrey: Group stages v Herry (The Ovel) lost by four widets a Goupesterston (Brand won by three seekets: v Brons (Branesties (The Over) won by six withers: v Hampshire (Southamption) won by six withers: v Hampshire (Southamption) won by 165 nate v Susses (The Ovel) won by 11 nate. Quartan-Hast's v Esses (Thermistor) won by six wickers. Semi-final: v Lolaestershire (The Ovel) won be 134 nate.



Paul Strang, student of leg-spin, limbers up for Lord's

Spin doctor Strang grows in stature

or anyone watching Paul
Strang bowl for Kent at
Lord's this afternoon and wondering why England have not found a leg-spinner they can rely on, the answer is simple: old police-height regulations for new recruits.

Strang was born in Bulawayo

27 years ago this month, but his father was born in Somerset and hrought up in Dartmouth, Now a husinessman, in those days Strang Snr only wanted to be a

"He couldn't make the police bere because he was an inch too short," bis son explained. "Over there the beight restrictions weren't so bad. He was about 17 or 18 when be emigrated to Rhodesia, as it was then."

Fortunately the British police saw the error of their beightist ways in 1991, which was completely irrelevant to Ian Salisbury's becoming, the following year, the first leg-spinner to play for England since Robin Hobbs in 1971. Salisbury was playing for Sussex then but today, if selected, he will be opposing Strang in the Surrey team.

Strang Inr first played cricket in England in 1989, for Aston Manor in the Birmingbam League. In the same year be captained the Zimbabwe Under-19 side in New Zealand, but international cricket was put university in Cape Town. He emerged three years later with a social sciences degree and moved into marketing, but hreaking into the Zimbabwe

side was not so easy. "Things had changed a lot while I was at university," he explained earlier this week in a break from training at the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbnry, the town where be has made his temporary home. 'We'd become a Test side, so guys had their foot in the door two or three years before I

He finally made his debut in 1994, and came to England's attention with four wickets in a famous victory for Zimbabwe in the World Series Cup the same year. He struggled early on in Test cricket - "I bowled reasonably well hut my average

Leg work paid off for Kent's modest all-rounder, he tells Adam Szreter

which was ridiculous. Then after the World Cup I came into my own. I suppose the pitches helped me over there, I started maturing maybe, and doors

started opening for me."

The first door he went through was the one marked "Exit" at work and he became one of only a handful of fulltime professional cricketers in Zimbabwe, a move which has more than paid off. "I think in the last year I've got about 30 Test wickets at 25, which is what I'd like,"

He was the leading wicket-taker in the two-Test series with England, and he is a good enough hatsman to have made a Test century in Pakistan. He is also, as you have probably guessed by now, a brilliant

'I bowl a bit of leg-spin, score some runs and stop the odd ball in the field'

fielder and general all-round good egg. At least that is the view of John Wright, the former New Zealand batsman who is

now Strang's coach at Kent. "He's been a very good sign-ing for us," Wright said. "As a bowler be offers us great variety and adds balance to our side. Sometimes it may be only two or three wickets, but they're key wickets, or it's 40 or 50 runs. I think he views it as a great opportunity to be playing county cricket, he enjoys it and he's fitted in as though he's been here

for the last five or six years." So how, and why, did Strang become a leg-spinner? After all, his hrother Bryan, who also plays for Zimbabwe, is a seamer. When I was about eight or nine my father took me to a coach-

player]. I vividly remember him showing us, 'this is off-spin' - he was doing it underurm - and this is leg-spin', and I started bowling it in the nets at my

alla g rise

Engla

junior school. "I read every book I could find on leg-spinning - Richic Benaud's books and all that sort of stuff - and taught myself how to bowl the googly from the diagrams. Then I came on a schools tour to England in '88 and saw Abdul Qadir. It was the first time I ever saw another legspinner, and then I knew I had

long way to go. By now Strang has earned the right to associate membership, at least, of a highly exclusive international leg-spinning club. They've all been very helpful. be says, "but there's not much we can teach each other.

"it's like driving a car: they just drive the car a bit better than I'do. Shane Warne's been great. Mushy's Mushtag Ahmetl been vary good, [Anil] Kumble, unfortunately, haven't had much of a chance to talk to."

Full membership is not far away, and when it comes Strang will probably have added the flipper - the ball that shoots straight through - to his repertoire. "It's something I've been working on for two or three years," he says, "It took me two or three years to learn a googly and Warney told me it took him two years before he bowled his flipper very well, and he loses

ouite regularly." Strang played at Lotd's for the first time less than three weeks ago, when Keat lost to Middlesex in the NatWest Trophy. Today, the atmosphere should he different. "It's good to be part of a team that's going to Lord's for a final," he says, "and I just see myself as

another member of that team. "There's a tendency for some teams to rely a lot on their overseas players, hut fortunately bere at Kent I'm just another guy. I bowl a bit of leg-spin. score some runs and stop the odd ball in the field. They're a nice bunch and, obviously, it'll mean a lot to me if we can actually take some silverware home with us."

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Hollioake, the tearaway with

For someone who professed not to be that interested in sport in his youth, Ben Hollioake has come a long way. Surrey, England Under-19 and finally the full international one-day team for whom he made a spectacu-lar debut with a thrilling halfcentury at Lord's in May.

"I never really followed cricket much," the 19-year-old younger brother of the Surrey captain, Adam Hollioake, said "I never really followed any sport that much, apart from major events."

Yet he is possessed of a talent, which in the past has prompted Adam to say: "Ben does not have to work at his game as I do, he has natural ability." That talent got him to the private sector's centre of excellence, Millfield School in Somerset, but he was no model pupil. Recalcitrance reared its

head. He was a rebel. Even now, when asked about his interests outside the game something of the teenage abhorrence of prying adults takes over and prompts a vague, eva-sive answer. "Mainly just hanging around with my friends,

ehilling out hasically. Yet despite the cool image he likes to portray off the field - that of the streetwise youngster, for hom everything must appear effortless - when it comes to cricket, passion courses through his veins.

On the field of play be is a tecnage tearaway, his aggression focused on the immediate goal of helping his team to win.

David Llewellyn talks to the Surrey teenager ready to

battle with the best And given his gifts, it is no surprise that oozes self-belief.
"I want to become a Test-class

all-rounder," be said, undeterred by Surrey's dismal Nat West Trophy performance against Not-tinghamshire on Wednesday. "I want to become one of the best England's ever had."
To achieve that he will defi-

nitely have to work although he does have an advantage. His uphringing, together with that of Adam was distinctly competitive. The only time the two brothers let up is, strangely, on

the cricket field, although even when bowling in the nets Ben admits he will try a little harder when Adam comes in for batting practice.

Off the field they are bard at it. It is said that they have yet to complete a game of table tennis, that they get to 19-19 and go no further.

"It's the same in most things we do. just stupid stuff, really," Ben said. "Things like going from The Oval to home, if we leave at the same time whoever can get back first, you know, stuff like that; and on the Sony Playstation, we've had some mega hattles on that."

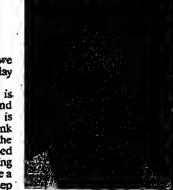
But he does insist that it never becomes physical. "We never get into any rucks," he said, "but I think that a competitive edge

is good for us, maybe we wouldn't be where we are today if it had not been for that."

Where they are today is Lord's for the Benson and Hedges Cup final and Ben is fairly sanguine about it. "I think having played at Lord's in the Texaco Trophy will have helped me," he said. "Remembering what I achieved might just be a nice little positive thing to keep in the back of my mind."

But Lord's can be an intimidating place especially on your lost between the England dressing-room and the crease and had to ask the way out of the Pavilion to the pitch - not to mention a Cup final.

"It might be more daunting this time than last time," he said.



Ben Hollioake: Natural ability

idating place especially on your "When I played against Aus-international debut - Ben got tralia 1 didn't really notice much. Mayhe this time I'll just take it in more. I want to sayout every second." Now that is the talk of someone who knows exactly where he is beaded, especially when he leaves the dressing-room at Lord's today.

WEEKEND FIXTURE GUIDE

TODAY

Football INTERTOTO CUP Group Three: Lausanne (Swit) v Ards (N ld ; 7.0). Group Four: Cork City v FC Cologne (7.0).

Rugby League STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Paris v Wigan (7.0).

Rugby Union International Matches: Australia v Eng-land (at Sydney Football Stadium, 11.10); USA v Ivaies (at San Francisco, 1am).

Speedway

ELITE LEAGUE: Bradford v Ipswich; Coven-try v Swindon; Eastbourne v Belle Vue. PREMITER LEAGUE: Benwick v Arena Essex (8.0); Stoke v Newcastle. AMATEUR LEAGUE: Bennick v Peterbor-cuch. (6.30): Kinglis Lyrin & Ipsuich v Long Eaton and Walverhampton 16.0). Other sports

GOLF: Lock Lamond World Invastignal (Lad TENNIS: Days Cup Euro/Athean zone group two play-off: tretand v Greece (Ducum): Birs-tol Challengor (Bristol).

TOMORROW

Football NTEHTOTO CUP Group two; Ebbw Vale v SC Bastla (Fri (Ebow Vale, 3.0) Rugby League

STONES SUPER LEAGUE: Sheffeld v Lon-

FREST DIVISION: Hus KP v Whitehaven; keigh-lev v Wakebeid: Swinton v Devetony; Widnes v Featherstone; Worlangton v Huddersfield SECOND DIVISION: Battley v Bramley (3,15); Doncaster v Hunslet, Prescot v Rochdale; York

Speedway
ELITE LEAGUE: Swindon v Coventry (6.0). AMATEUR LEAGUE: Burton v Berwich (3.0); Lathellan v Peterborough (2.30); Newport and Exeter v Oxford (2.30).

Other sports ATHLETICS: World Championship Mals (Birminghami. EQUESTRIANISM: Royal International Horse fying. Motor Racinis: British Grand Prix (Saver

Q UOTES OF THE WEEK

I'm batting against all these guys who are out to best me, not history. Pete Sampras after winning. his fourth Wimbledon title and 10th Grand Slam When he hit me he caught me

by surprise. Kilt-wearing puglist Steve Collins retains his WBO super-middleweight title needed another for Oscar. Wirral cyclist Chris Boardman on the all-important receipt of le llon

I threw myself into the Llons with all my heart. John Bentley, the tour's joint top try scorer They will be driving Land Rovers blindfolded with colleagues helping with instructions. David

Graveney finds a novel road to English Test success A phenomenally good run. Seb Coe no Wilson Kipketer a record equalling Stockholm run

I've taken a gamble on my Eng. land career. A reformed Pant Merson on his move to Boro You're a bloody nulsance the lot of you. Herry Gecil, in a distribe against journalists at Newmarket For 13 years Mike has brought nothing but credibility to the boxing profession: Tyson's attorney Oscar Goodman

I came to tuck you all in. The coolees are on the way. Tom Lehman after his round at Loch Lomand finished at 10pm

Gough skips festival

Darren Gough will miss Yorkshire's three matches at the Scarborough Festival, which starts today after being brought forward from its traditional

end-of-season slot. The England seamer is still troubled by sore shins and Yorkshire's captain David Byas said: "Darren and Peter Hartley will both miss the festival although they are in our side for the Sunday League fixture with Der-

byshire al Derby this weekend." Yorkshire open the festival with the Northern Electric Trophy game against Durham, who will be without opening baisman Paul Collingwood for the rest of

The 21-year-old Tynesider bad an operation yesterday after tearing tendons from a bonc while attempting a slip catch in a second team match at Cbesterfield.

Kim Barnett's appeal to the English Cricket Board against a cluh fine bas been postponed. The former Derbyshire captain was set to go to Lord's yesterday for a bearing into a £1,500 fine for unauthorised media statements following the departure of Dean Jones as club captain earlier this season.

The Derbyshire generalmanager, Stewart Edwards, said: The ECB told us that they the season after a hand injury. needed further information."

Aussies brand Rowell row a 'disgrace'

Rugby Union CHRIS HEWETT reports from Sydney

The Rugby Football Union hierarchy's astonishing ability to make the worst of a bad job plumbed previously unfathomable depths here yesterday as the rumpus over lack Rowell's future as national coach continued to overshadow the small matter of today's one-off Test between Australia and

Rowell could not have received more sympathy had he phoned the New South Wales branch of the Samaritans. Meanwhile. his hapless employers were forced to soak up a torrent of stick, much of it dished out by the Wallahies,

Greg Smith, the Australian coach and Rnwell's direct

opponent at the Sydney Football Ground, was almost incandescent with anger at the Way his rival's position had been undermined over the last few days. "It's a disgrace, an absolute disgrace," he said. "I just don't understand the mentality of some people. There is no morality here. If they've sent Jack here to do a job they should let him do it, but people have their own agendas and push things all the time. It sort of makes me siek."

Rowell also received a private vote of support from his players many of whom were surprised and angered at news that Don Rutherford, the RFU's technical director, had spent several hours in New Zealand trying to lure Graham Henry, the highly regarded Auckland provincial coach, with a place in the Eng-

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	JSTRALIA v	ENGLAND	
	at Sydney Foo	thell Ground	Na.
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B Tune	Queensiand 1/	4 LBentley	Newcast
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M Harry (MSW); 1	85 Payne (NSW); 190	- 17 A King (Wagnet), 18 A	
Wilson (Queeralan	d), 20 A Blades (NSW),	ter), 19 B Clarke fforme	no 20 R Coo
21 M Caputo (ACT		ord (Laicester); 21 K Ye	es (Bell)

Rutherford denied offering anything of that nature; for a Rowell's post to Henry. "It is start, I can't see an immigent sit-

Such a step would horrify Geoff Cooke. "I would be appalled if England turned to an overseas coach," the former England manager said. "We can have outside help, but when

it comes to coaching the national side I believe it should be With the Scotsman Ian

McGeechan, the Lions coach. and Australian Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby. also being sounded out, Rowell, whose contract expires at the end of August, has been in a viilnerable position for some time. But the timing of this week's developments, disrupting as they did the build-up to a fearfully difficult game, was as depressing as it was farcical.

Not that the Wallabies, who have never lost to England on

coach would be given charge of home soil, will be particularly the England team," he said. understanding when today's game kicks off under lights in front of a 41,000 sell-out crowd. Humiliated by the All Blacks last weekend. John Eales and his men are acutely aware of the need for a big performance.

"We have to show the people in this country that we are a better side than we looked against New Zealand," said Smith, who expects Tim Horan, the world's best centre in the early Nineties. to underline his potential as an equally influential outside-half. "In the end, Tim will be a

genius of a No 10. He has his deficiencies at the moment but we need a stand-off who can beat teams from that position. He has the speed and running skills to do that."

If Horan does indeed blow hot, England may find them-

back. They lost Tony Underwood, their quickest wing, to a tom hip muscle yesterday - Nick Beal of Northampton steps up for his second cap - and with Jeremy Guscott back home in Bath, the midfield also has the stamp of inexperience about it

England have never beaten the Wallabies on Australian soil and given the brutal rigours of a seven-week Lions tour involving all but three of their starting line-up, today's assignment would have been dannting without the pantomime surrounding their coach's job. Under these embarrassing and entirely avoidable circumstances, victory would be nothing short of miraculous.

Martin Johnson, captain of the Lions in South Africa, has been told it could be six weeks before he plays again after

Buckett seizes second chance

Ian Buckett, the Swansea prop, has been handed the chance to resume his international career for Wales against the American Eagles in San Fran-cisco today. The former Oxford Blue will win his second full cap three years after his first against Tonga thanks to an ankle injury to his team-mate. Chrislian Loader.

It is an ironic twist of fortunes for Buckett, who was well established as Swansca's leading loose-head prop before Loader graduated to the senior ranks. lowever, with that cap against the Tongans in 1994 behind him everything went wrong for the 29-year-old when he severed the hamstring in his left leg in a norrific scrum accident in a cluh game against Cardiff.

"The injury happened in Jan-uary 1995 and I couldn't run for eight months. I had to teach myself the basics of running once my leg had been rehabilitated." Buckett said. "It has been a very frustrating few years and it has been difficult to get consistent first-team rugby since Christian got into the Welsh side.

"But I managed to get back into the Swansea side last season and now I intend to make the most of my second chance with Wales."

Buckett is nne of three changes from the Wales side which beat the United States 30-20 in last weekend's first Test in Wilmington, North Carolina. All the changes are in the puck.

Buckett takes over from Loader, who will be on his way bome this weekend after straining an ankle ligament, and the Llanelli hooker Robin McBryde takes over from Garin Jenkins.

Buckett and McBryde used to pack down together at Swansca and also won their first caps in the win over Tonga three years ago. But the player who joined them among the debutants on that day, Steve Williams, the Neath No 8, has lost his place in the back row to Bath's Nathan Thomas.

Other than that, Kevin Bowring, the Wales coach, has kept faith with his senior players. Bowring, however, will be looking for a vast improvement on last weekend's showing, in which Wales scored four tries to two by the Eagles.

"I will be looking for an improvement io attitude and performance from the first Test. 1 wasn't totally happy with the way things went in Wilmington." Bowring said."

The Eagles are still waiting on a fitness check on the Bath utility forward Dan Lyle.

Ity FOTWARD Dan Lyte,
WMLES (V US Engles, East Francisco, today): K Morgen (Portyprido): W Proctor
(Usnell), L Davies (Cardif), G Thomas (Birdgend). N Welfor (Cardif): A Thomas (Birdgend). N Welfor (Cardif): A Thomas
(Swensea), R Methyde (Ltandli), L Mustice
(Cardiff), G Llewellyn (Haricouris), M Voyle
(Usnell), A Globs (Usnell). N Thomas (Both),
G Jonés (Cardif), Capt). Neplacements: Il
James (Bridgend), L Jarvis (Cardif), A Moore
(Rohmond), S Williams (Neath), C Arthony (Swensea).

Swansea are set to announce a record loss in excess of £450,000 for the last financial year because of high wage hills and lower than anticipated income. Negotiated contract deals mean players of the calibre of Scutt Gibbs, Arwel Thomas and Garin Jenkins will stay at Swansea for the coming

The cost of paying their wages, however, was based on the assumption the club would receive a share of the £22m sequently collapsed.

Dallaglio dares to rise higher in England's cause

ustralians do not, as a general rule, fall over each other in a mad rush to heap praise on sporting opponents. Least of all the snooty English, for whom they reserve a particularly vitriolic strain of public contempt bordering on the dismissive.

Listen, then, to Greg Smith, a straight-talking rugby coach from straight-talking Sydney and as hard a nut as ever took charge of the Wallaby national side. "The England back row is a very, very powerful attacking unit - big, strong, fast and damaging - and given a decent platform, they are people you would have to fear.

Could you just run that past us again, Greg? We're not used to having sweet nothings whispered in our ears by hairychested, muscle-flexing Aussies with a Test to win.

Actually, Smith was being deadly serious as he extolled the virtues of Tim Rodber, Richard Hill and Lawrence Dallaglio in advance of today's inaugural Cook Cup match at the Sydney Foothall Ground. And with good reason, too. The English sies were central to the Lions' unexpected triumph in South Africa and in the light of those deeply committed performances against the feared Bokke trio of Ruben Kruger, Andre Venter and Gary Teichmann, the Wallaby tacticians have reshaped their own back

row in an effort to draw the sting from the red rose breakaways. That will be easier said than done, especially with Dallaglio in such astonishing form. At 24, the Wasps captain is in such complete command of his game that the Lions selectors felt able to switch him from the hlind-side flank to No 8 just hours before last weekend's Johannesburg Test, secure in the knowledge that he would deliver

in world-class style. "He really is an incredibly influential player," enthused Fran Cotton, the Lions manager, after the dust had settled on the Filis Park hostilities, "I can't tell you how impressed I've been

fear the back-row behemoth, writes **Chris Hewett**

Jack Rowell is equally smitten. "When he arrived at our Sydney hotel, I congratulated him on his success with the Lions," the England coach said yesterday. "And what was his response? 'There's one game left go, Jack. Let's get down to husiness.' That is the mark of the man." Talent, versatility and an ultra-professional willingness to play all the year round. Almost too good to be true, surely?

In fact, Dallaglio is just be-ginning to feel the strain of an exhausting 11-month crusade along every last highway and byway of the rugby landscape.
"The players who have been

'We all played differently and embraced a new philosophy during the tour'

heavily involved at international level this summer are going to have to take a well-carned rest and if that means missing the first couple of matches of the new season, so he it. You can't cuntinue at this pace indefinitely, so it would be hetter to recharge the batteries now than to find yourself hitting a brick wall halfway through next season because of injury or

For all that, Dallaglio is still enjoying the view from the greatest rughy high of his career tn date. Finur years agn, Ben Clarke, his predecessor as Eng-land's short-side specialist, completed his first Lions tour with a reputation to die for and Dallaglio has passed the hardest examinatinn rugby has to mure automatic than Le uffer with the self-same flying Brunu Nero Dallaglio.

Even the Wallabies colours. What is more, be has emerged with his natural enthusiasm for the fray intensified still further by the expansive, exciting style adopted in South Africa,

"I think we all played differently and embraced a whole new philosophy during the course of the tour. In many ways, we had to be prepared to do that; rugby is refereed dif-ferently in the southern hemisphere and as a result, positive play tends to be rewarded. A side going forward has every chance of being allowed to retain possession, so you learn to treasure the ball.

We have to translate that experience directly to today's game against Australia and there are enough England players who underwent the Lions experience to enable that to happen, because it's in the mindset now and has been for

some weeks. People ask if there is an endof-season feel about this fixture after all the emotion and elation of the Lions' victory, but I think this is a very important opportunity for all of us to lay down ne markers tor next season We're all aware now that England have an ever-increasing pool of players capable of step-ping up to Test level and no one can afford a bad run if they want to stay involved."

There is 00 doubting Dallaglio's involvement, however. He will lead Wasps again next season as the Londoners defend their league title and a good deal of smart money says he will skipper his country too befure very much longer. Phil de Glanville is a sufficiently com-petitive character in make that assumption a matter of prolonged dispute but with Will Greenwood, Jeremy Guscott and Nick Greenstock likely tn create a midfield lng jam every bit as congested as last year's snarl-up, it would be no surprise in see Rowell or whoever might an automatic chnice. Just at the moment, they do not come any more automatic than Lawrence



On a high: Victory on the yeld for the Lions proved Lawrence Dallaglio's immense value to England

Worthing fight for survival

Oliver flies to first defence

tion with the first defence of his to claiming versions of the

The Finchley boxer has made for the vacant World Boxing

such a rapid rise since defeating Council International super-

the Bulgarian champion Martin middleweight belt.

Worthing Bears will fuld next week unless supporters of the ailing Budweiser League club can raise £30,000.

Directors of the three-times Wembley Champinoship playoff winners are backing the fans' initiative, which seeks six pledges of £5000 each from local business or individuals. Any pledge of that sum

would be invited to form a management committee headed by one of the club's directors. In return, Worthing directors

It could be a case of out with the

old and in with the new tonight

when Spencer Oliver and Herol Graham appear on the same mammoth bill London's at

Kensington Olympia.
Oliver, 22, tops the promo-

European super-bantamweight

championship against the

Frenchman Serge Poilhlan.

to keep it in Worthing and endeavour to field a competitive

team this coming season. A spokesman for the supporters. Christian Hamilton. said that fans had to try and explore every avenue in an attempt to save the club, and if the required sum is mt raised in a week all pledges will be re-turned. He said: "This appeal may be the last chance."

Bears have operated in Worthing for 10 years and are locked in a desperate fight for survivat fullnwing Worthing Borough Council's decision to would not sell the club, commit refuse them financial support.

Krastev in four rounds to take

the title in May, and can look

forward to becoming one of the

dumestic game's higgest draws. However, Graham, 37. on a

comeback despite protestations from friends, could be lacing up

his gloves for the final time. The

Sheffield boxer, who came close

world middleweight title in

1989 and 1990, fights the world-

class Canadian Chris Johnson

Athletics

EUROPEAN UNDER-23 CHAMPIONSIEPS (Terlat, Fin, Thure): British performances: Men 100m sesmi-finalis: J Henthom 10.322cc; M (P-vonsh 10.35, 400m heats: M Hyton 47.65; R Nicoles 47.05, 1500m: B Roses 3:46.75, 110m burdles: R Balle 13.92; D Gresves 12.99.

AMERICAN LEAGUE: Ananom 8 Oakland 4; Boston 8 Toronto 7 (11 Innings); New York Yurkees 10 Detroit 3; Chicago White Son 6 Kansas Chr. 3; Marrusonz 8 Cleveland 2; Seattle 12 Teags 9. ARTHORNAL LEAGUE: ST Louis 3 Chicago Cubs 2: Florido 3 Philadelphia 7; Houston 7 Prits-burgh 0; New York Mers, 10 Atlanta 1; San Dego 11 Colorado 5; Los Angeles 11 San Dego 11 Colorado 5; Los Angeles 11 San

Baskethall

Businethal

Budweser League club Derby Storm have appointed Steve Tucker as their head coach following the release of Jeff Jones earlier this week. The 40-year-old from Long Beach, Mississipp, who coached Birmingham Budists during this 1994-95 season, said: "I have heard a tot of good things about the set-up and the phans the club has to establish its own areno. I see a bright future for the club and can't wait for our season to start in September."

Australian rules

Baddminton
MALAYSAN OPEN (Ituals Limpur) Querter-finals, Mer's singles: P Gate Chroberser,
15 A Bud Nusurie (Indus) 15-17 15-11.
P Susarro (Indus) It R Sedwi (Melay) 15-5
15-6; I Supramo (Indus) It Un Yegeng (Chi
15-10 11-5 18-14; Santoso Bud (endors)
to Tog Eve Hock (Malay) 10-5 15-5
15-15-15
Women's singles: 1 Ve Zhaoyeng (Chi br Lee
Neurg Won (S Kon 11-4 11-1; Zhaou Ma (Chi
16 X Maha) 11-15; Susy Syriation (Indus)
to Yapa (Indi 11-3 11-8; Da Yun Chi
16 X Mahaat (Indon) 11-1 11-5; Susy Syriation (India)
16 A Poor (Indi 11-3 11-8)
17 Susy Syriation (India)
18 Mahaat (Indon) 11-1 11-5; Susy Syriation (India)
18 Mahaat (Indon) III-1 III-5; Susy Syriation (India)
18 Mahaat (Indon) III-1 III-1

SPORTING DIGEST statisd): 66 N Ratchiffs (Aus.): 57 D Jones, 69 S Pratt (US), J R Death (USA), M Bern-ordge, C Deby, N Ooke, T Britz (SA); 79 G Pones (fr), A Bardha (US), J Rhodes, D Debtel (US), R Campagnol (fr), E Polland, P Leonard, T S Walser, M Peel, W Armstong (US), 7 Horton, S Mathard (Iffn), 8 Watter, M Greg-son, M McCono. Football

Second Drysion Bournemouth have trimbed a three-year deal worth £75,000 with sports grant Patrick and a £30,000 shirt contract with Prover MG dealers

Sewards.

Derek Mountheid is staying at Walsall as player-coach to manager Jan sorersan, calling oif his switch to the Vaudrall Conference club Hereford. Mountfield's decision follows Kevin Wilson's move from Walsalt to become assistant manager at Northampton. Portugat's football federation has banned Sporting Lisbon's Reardo Sa Pinto for assauting Artur Jongs, the national squad coach, throwing into doubt a S4m (E2.38m) move to Spalm's Real Sociedad. Portuguese meda reported yesterday that the Temperamental striker had been barred for 12 months but rederation officials would only confirm a suspension without spelling out

firm a suspension without spelling out

GOIF
US WOMEN'S OPEN (Cornellus, Oragon)
Leading Past-round scares: (US enless stated): 67 L Neumann (Swer: 68 S Redman, K
Robbins, II Richard, Se R Pak (S Kor): 69 L
Kane (Can), T Johnson (GB), M Spencer-Devin, N Lopez, TO A Dibos (Peng, R Jones, J
Cruassiparin, A Nichoka (GB), P Sync; T1 L
Hockney (GB), K Wilkarns, A Publishma
Usotol, C Peres (GB), II Engeling, S Smyers (Mus), B Kuehn, J McGR, J Stephenson
(AUR), J Phodol. (Aust. 1 Prizock.

ers least, 6 rulerin, J Nociae, J STOTHERSON (Aust.) I Phrock.
EIROPEAN WOMEN'S TEAM CHAMPIONSHER'S (Nordcenter Club, Fia) First round: Fournement Framon 1 Spain 1 (Frances first K Icher and I. Westz lost to M Preto and id Pors 2 and 1: J Bushill and A Vincont bt S Beautel and A Sanchez 2 and 11 England 0 Southerd 2 (Fing names first E Ratelfite and K Stupples loss to A Roze and H Monaghan at 19th; R Hudson and K Rosmon lost to J Moode and L Nicholson I hole Demmark 1 Wides 1. Doon names first A Molife-Lott and R Rasmissee lost to E Pajerin and L Davis at 19th C Luid and k July bt R Mongan and H Euric 4 and 31. Holy 2 Sweden D th names first G Serges and M Casarb th M Hedderg and I Lindbergh 7 and 6: S Cavolien and A Nistin bt S Berglund and U Millo 1 holes.

SPECIWAY
THURSON'S LATE RESULTS: Elite League: lower 50 tong's Lyrn 40. Rumoff for League boxes point: Ciris Louis (specific to the street was found to the way of the street League Four local Charpissaship, qualitying read 4th leg (sharffield) Shelfield 34 Long Eaton 30; Skeghess 18 Hull 1A. Afgregate scores (one leg to go): Ling Eaton 39, Skeghess 82, Hull 78, Stoke 67, Sheffield 57.

Secretary Grando Tournament (Nagoya, Japan) Secti day of 15: Risto (won 3, loss its remo (4-2); Kotoryu (3-3) bt Yamaro (2-4); Kankentichi (3-3) bt Tothronado (4-2); Hamanoshirro (4-2) bt Museum (3-3); Shikama (3-3) bt Goyor (2-4); Konsisis (3-3) bt Doish (2-3°); Asanosho (2-4) bt Martou-IOR GERMAN OPEN (Uberlingen) Lead-first-round scores (GB or in unless

Mobil has agreed to sponsor the RAC British Rally Championship for a further

SUPER LEAGUE: Adelaids 8 Auckland 18.

Rugby Union Sale, the Pilkington Cup runners-up

Sale, the Pfilington Cup runners-up, have become the latest rugby unon club to be taken over by a private compeny, after the sports management firm fourney pumped £2.5m into the First Division club. Tourney have taken control of the rugby side of the club but will lease the Heywood Road ground from the club's trustees. Sale, who lost in the cup final to Leicester at Twichenham in May, are following in the footsteps of clubs such as Bath, Wasps and London Ingh, who received a £1m cash injection only last week.

Speedway

m (2-4); Njokushatzan (4-2) bi Minetofue (1-5); Altanowska (3-3) bi Notonashid (3-3); Gamu (5-1) bi Notonowska (4-2); Tochmowska (2-4) bi Nathodhima (3-2); Nagyamb (4-2) bi Asarhyutoka (4-2); Miscoyama (3-3) k-4 (2); Musashmoru (4-2) bi Tochazuma (3-3); Nganoshmoru (4-2) bi Tochazuma (3-3); Nganoshmoru (4-2) bi Tochazuma (3-3); Nganoshmoru (3-5) bi Kozanstuma (1-5); Nganoshmoru (5-1) bi Kozanstuma (1-5);

HALL OF FAME CHAMPIONSHE'S (Newport, Rt) Heri's singles, querter-brails: L Pass (Indi bt A Radulescu (Get) 6-3 7-8; S Sargisin (Arm) bt S State (Aus) 6-3 7-5.

Tour Match

MCC v Pakistan A SHERLEY: MCC won by 10 wickets. Palestan A won toss MOC - Fleat langings 362 (K I. T Artruston 200no. GW Rower 78: Shoalb Militar 5-64, Aster Methinood 4-90).

ad-Deeb (Egs) 4-6 6-4 6-2 6-0; A Ghoresm (Egs) bt E Carloves (Lith) 3-6 6-2 7-6 8-4). Aela/Deestia zone group one play-off (Tashkord); Lichekistan and Japan (evel 2-1 (O Ogorodov (Uzb) bt H Kaneko (Lichen) 6-1 7-5 4-6 6-3; G Motomura (Japan) bt DTorres-shexick (Uzb) 6-1 2-6 6-1 6-3).

shewich (uzb) 6-1 2-6 6-1 6-3).
BRISTOL MEN'S CHALLENGER TOURNAMEN'S Rightes, quarter shades M Pecche (163)
bit O Burneza (50) 6-4 3-5 6-4 6-3; S
Pescosolo In') bit J Coettee (5-), 6-3 6-1; M Paccara (it) bit J Coettee (5-), 6-3 6-1; M Paccara (it) bit J Delgado (69) 6-2 6-7 6-3.
LTA WOMEN'S SATELLITE EVERT (Fether
town) Semi-figuitie N Cross (08) bit A Janes (63) 6-6-2; S De Beer (SA) bit N Grandon (SA) 3-0 ret.

(One day: 11.0 start)

WALSALL: ECB XI v Polustan A

MRNOR COUNTES CHAMPIONS P (First day of two; \$1.0; South Park: Bedfords we v Lincolnshire; Radiett: Hertandhire v Koriok; Tjuemouthe Northurberand v Carrbridgeshire; Oewestry; Sivopshire v

CRICKET SCOREBOARD

(Final day of tivee)

Harvey 58; E.J. Stanford 4-1059; Herric 204 (E.Y. Smith, 77; G. Keedy 7-74) and 254 (G. Keedy 6-75). Lancashire won by 128 runs. Treat bedger, Surrey 174 and 374 for 1. W. Shaind 200no, D.J. Bidnell 150noj; Nothingharshire 387 for 2 dec. Match drawn. Clevedors: Somerset 246 and 207 for 9 dec; Harmpshire 137 and 135 fS. Macgill 7-21). Somerset won by 150 rans. Histograms. Yorkshire 336 for 6 dec and 175 for 2 dec; Mediesex 195 and 156 if D. Faher 6-47), Yorkshire won by 161 raps.

Bonson and Hedges Cup First

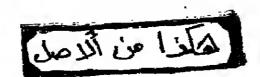
(One day, 11.0) LORD'S: Kent v Surrey Tour Match (One day, 11.0) EDINBURGH: Scotland v Australia. (One day; 11.0)

Starting today

AXA Life Longue (One day: 2.0)
DERBY: Derbyshire y Yorkshire.
CHESTER-LE-STREET: Durfar v Warescheine.
SOUTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Worzesprahle.
TRENT BRIDGE: Nottinghamshire v Somer-

McCzin Chaffer (One day; 11.0)

* THE INDEPENDENT LIVE COMMENTARY 0891 881 485 COUNTY ROUND UP 0891 525 075



Troon test

Tiger Woods ready for links challenge, page 23



BRITISH GRAND PRIX Williams supports troubled world champion while Hakkinen sets pace for McLaren-Mercedes in practice

Hill fights back with help from friends

Motor racing

DERICK ALLSOP reports from Silverstone

Damon Hill emharked upon a restoration job on his reputation here yesterday, aided by some of Formula One's most distin-

guished figures.
As Hill responded to criticism from his boss at Arrows-Yamaha. Tom Walkinshaw, of his motivation and level of performance. Frank Williams, the man who sacked him last year. Bernard Dudot, the technical director of Renault, and John Barnard, his team's new designer, all spoke in support of the world champion.

Even Walkinshaw attempted to lift some of the tension he effectively created in the build-up to tomorrow's British Grand Prix by maintaining he had never said Hill was under threat of the axe.

He declared Hill had a future with the team and that he understood his No 1 driver wanted to stay. He did, however, repeat his demand that Hill produce the form "he is capable of."

Walkinshaw had, of course, achieved his objective. He had given Hill a public boot up the hackside, the driver's pride had been suitably dented, and the rest of the team doubtless felt some of the blame for a miserable season had been lifted from their shoulders.

The immediate effect was inauspicious. Hill could manage only 20th place in practice, one behind his team-mate, Pedro

Hill admitted he was "disappointed" to read Walkinshaw's comments but dismissed suggestions he had already agreed a deal with another team for next year. He said: "It's been a difficult year for Tom, as well as me, and sometimes the frustratioo is evident not only in the driver but also the team manager. We've got to do all we can to rectify the situation. But there's no problem between us.

Tom is entitled to put a rocket

Horse power. Eddie Irvine guides his Ferrari towards the ninth-fastest time in yesterday's first day of practice for Sunday's British Grand Prix at Silverstone

Photograph: Robert Hallam

up the hackside of his drivers - capabilities. The extra motivaevery team manager does that. I've had much worse criticism

from other team managers. My goal is to get back in the hunt for the world championship as soon as possible and I'd like it to he with Arrows if they can

offer me the right package. "I am giving it everything I can. I'm a professional and when I get in the car I want to give my best performance. I don't want to let anyone down, least of all myself.

on and make the hest of your up to us to get the best out of it."

tion factor comes from being at the front. You can't fabricate it, you can't just sit there and pretend you are at the front.

'Money is not an issue. I want to win. I don't want to be 15th or 10th or even sixth. I want to be first. That's what makes me go, get fired up and want to race. I have given the team as much input and energy as I can. You can't do more than so much. The rest is how much you can get out of the car and eogine. We are in "You have to drive yourself this together as a team and it's

Williams, who reportedly called Hill "a prat" after he collided with Michael Schumacher here two years ago, had a more glowing description for his for-

mer driver yesterday. gling with his car hut we know he is a world champion, he's won 21 races, and that's all you nced to say. It's probable there will not be a place for him back ment on the observation of

in our team oext year, hut cer-tainly it is possible for the future. He's a great driver. Williams declined to com-

He said: "Clearly he is sung-

Dudot, who produces the engines for his cars, that Hill should have been retained and that had he been, they would be leading the championship rather than trailing Schumacher and Ferrari.

Williams did, however, have a dig hack at Jacques Ville-neuve, his main hope for the drivers' title, for suggesting the team had become complaceot after a strong start to the season and concentrated too much on next year's car.

A third vote of confidence for Hill came from Barnard, who

joined Arrows early this year after leaving Ferrari.

Barnard, who admitted he could do little to this year's Arrows than concentrate on safety improvements, said he had found Hill good to work with and felt this "friction" in the

camp did not help the cause. He went on: "It's difficult enough when you are struggling at the back, but this hasn't affected my relationship with Damon.

Arrows will oot be involved in the main event tomorrow, but McLaren-Mercedes may be. Mika Hakkinen followed up his promising test here with a fastest

time in practice yesterday. Villeoeuve, who needs to put his campaign back on track-was second and Heinz-Harald Frentzen, in the other Williams, was third. Schumacher, who leads the drivers' championship by 14 points, was a puzzled

Johnny Herbert was the best of the home contingent, fourth in Sauber Petronas. Eddie Irvine, in the other Ferrari, was ninth and David Coulthard 13th after spinning his McLaren.

o two unofficial sessions); 1 M Halder in) McLaren-Mercedes 1mm 22.935:ec Alleneuve (Carl) Williams-Renaux 1,23.25

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



Oil producer given line about Norway that's been used too often (4-4) Skewed representation of North in dodgy atlas (6) 10 Having it makes all the difference, no doubt (7. 2.

11 Right to hold on to part that's given back - proves 8 you've paid (7) t2 Incentive for politician. extravagant suite (7) 13 Go off and get into a

state, presumably (8) 15 Schedule which shows fare (5) 18 Prize-money specified in contract (5) 20 Restoration of a Stuart by

English? That's steep (8) 23 When we stand with arms crossed to pass the time? (3.4) 25 Advanced stage in the mating process? (7) 26 Liberal Club, regular re-sort of psychotherapists

Subject of portrait not dif-ficult to catch? (6)

 Red and white bouquets from this American plant (6) 2 Care motel's taken to accommodate tardy guest (9) Fish wounded in flank (7) Title appears OK (5)
Call to limit training crop

ping up in athletics event (7) Accept grant (5) A particularly light element? Order to capture Channel Islands leads to violent ac-

tion (8) 14 Strong, but circumscribed by maltreatment – it's difficult to understand (8) 16 Total ban, one somehow relaxed for body of soldiers (9) 17 Soap derivatives, maybe? (4-

4) 19 Put into cheerful mood by end of dance - veleta, per-21 Beatific princess almost trapped by despicable type

22 Herb's experience, being taken apart by heartless newsmen (6)
24 Cereal – which can be produced in winter tempera-

ture? (5) 25 Person responsible for form and order in European church in Middle East (5)

Henman loses temper but wins the match

BILL PIERCE reports from Kiev

Today's doubles match is likely to be decisive in Britain's Davis Cup tie here against drei's favourite surface here Ukraine after yesterday's singles matches ended with honours even. Tim Henman, the British No 1, beat Andrei Rybalko in five sets, hut Greg Rusedski, the No 2. lost in four sets to Andrei

Medvedev. Henman was less than im-pressive against the world No 350 and his performance was further marred when he was warned for uttering a "verbal obscenity after shouting at a fidgety cameraman at courtside. His subsequent outburst betrayed his disgust at failing to win the fourth set and with it the

Henman said: "I expressed my feelings at my performance to the referee and probably deserved the warning, but I won't lose much sleep over it.

'I was more concerned that I lacked the mental intensity at times to command the match against an opponent who played some good tennis. At least I stuck to my game plan which was to be aggressive—and got the job done in the

The tie is being played here man said. "It was very overon clay, a surface on which Britons have rarely performed well. Looking ahead to his second singles match tomorrow against Medvedev, the world

The prospect looks unlikely, though, on the alarming evidence of Henman's erratic performance against an uncelehrated opponent in yes-

and h's going to be very tough, but hopefully I can produce an

terday's game. Rybalko stretched the Briton to the limit with a giantkiller fervour and plucky spirit that was stirred up by a vociferous home crowd, determined to get their money's worth from tickets costing the equivalent of £55, nearly half the country's average month-

ly wage. Henman, still officially the world's 20th best player, even-tually prevailed 3-6, 6-4, 6-3. 4-6, 6-4 in just over three testing hours. Although he played a number of splendid passing shots, his games was also lit-tered with unforced errors and missed first serves.

"Apart from the win, which is the most important thing. I didn't get much satisfaction from this performance," Hen-

He knows he must come up with a much higher level of consistency and drive against Medvedev, who is the hero of Kiev and appears to be back to something near to his most compelling form after a few years in the doldrums following knee and wrist surgery.

Medvedev looked razor sharp as he beat Rusedski 6-1, 6-1, 2-6, 6-2. The Briton, playing in the country of his grandfather's birth. overwhelmed in the first two sets, but fought back bravely to

take the third. Medvedev suddenly looked concerned, but the reprieve for the British contingent was only brief as he took an early break for a 3-1 lead in the fourth. The Ukrainian still had to survive a spate of double faults to resist Rusedski's continued hrave efforts, but eventually took command again to clinch victory in

just over an hour and a half.
Today's doubles will see Henman and his Olympic Games sil-ver medal partner, Neil Broad, face Medvedev and Dmirri Po-

Becker enters US Open; page

In Monday's 20-page section



the buy have been was I m. He was playing with Nick Faldo and he was probably more womed about Nick, and

I started to knock on the door, and I knew I knew I had my shout. and then I bogeyed two of the last three. People say, just go to the next week, but I thought

about that tournament for six months! -

Ernle Els remembers ast year's Open as he prepares for Troon -

this year. He talks to Andy Farfell in the Monday interview

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MAGE OF Hands on at the Hampton Court Flower Show: the finishing touches are added to a detail of Bonita Bulaitis' landscape design Voyage of Vitality, which presents the garden as 'a living natural art space'.

THE WEEK Photographing Nicola Kurtz. Taken on a Nikon F4 with a 24mm lens at 1/125 seconds at f8 on Kodak 400 ASA film. To order a print of this picture – at a cost of £15 – phone 0171-293 2534

the longweekend the independent of the independent

WORDS OF THE WEEK

Taking the mickey out of France

'Everything was themed, and it came as a minor relief to note that the sparrows did not fly in wearing Dumbo outfits. Everything, that is, except the toilets. This was a disappointment.'

century small-towo American gear, while tan-coloured Indiana Jones outfits were standard issue in Adventureland. (Sadly, pedal-powered onion sellers were conspicuous by their absence.)
Old-style riverboats plied the waters of
Frontierland; you could take a trip
aboard a flying galleon in Fantasyland,
and be piloted through the galaxy by
delinquent robots in Discoveryland.
And of course, the renowned monse

So I spent my first day in Continental Europe wandering the plastic, alco-hol-free world of make-believe, forever dodging in and out of somebody's video · And, of course, the renowned monse partnership was available in appropoate shot, marvelling at the imitation rock settings to guide you through a bewilformations in concrete and reinforced dering variety of retail entertainment. Inside the realistic Western General Store, Trading Post and Mining Supplies outlet, Minnie modelled the latest in polystyrene, admiring the topiary ani-mals and the larger than life Disney characters signing autographs for their spellbound junior admirers. Besides Main Street, USA, there are four other fetching, imitatioo-leather squaw gear, sporting a single feather in her headband. And then, as if by magic, there she was again in veil and harem trousers to "lands", each with its own attractions, entertainment, restaurants and shops. introduce you to her Scheherazade Everythiog is themed, so that on Main Collection inside the Adventureland Street, USA, the cast members were kitted out in grey capes and turn-of-the-Bazaar, while Mickey looked on, counting your money from beoeath a fez set at a jaunty angle.

Yes Indeed, everything within Disneyland's control was themed, and it came as a minor relief to note that the sparrows did not fly in wearing Dumbo outfits. Everything, that is, except the toilets, because once you've passed the symbol of a man wearing a scrape in Frontierland you could be in the same restroom as the ooe that lies behind the man in the fez in the Adveotureland bazaar (I tell a lie; they resisted the temptation to be culturally offensive in the bazaar: there was no fez). This was a disappointment, and an opportunity missed, I thought. I wanted to be overpowered by a wall of urinal stench as I passed that serape symbol, and piss in a real Mexican toilet surrounded by flies, or squat down over an evil-smelling hole in the ground behind the hazaar next to a cardboard cut-out of a straining

Middle Eastern gentleman. Fantasyland should have been equipped with bath-room fixtures shaped like the Mad Hatter's teacups, while Indiana Jones hats could have served the same purpose in Adventureland, but, like good, clean-cut Americans the Disney Imagineers had

stopped at the restroom thresholds.
One thing about the toilets was clear, however. They weren't Freoch. Most French public loos are holes in the French public loos are holes in the French public loos are holes in the French public loos are holes but this ground that you squat over, but this wasn't the sort of behaviour that Disney eocouraged. In fact, the more I saw of Euro Disney the more puzzled I became about why it was there at all. Why should the French, so proud and defensive of their national culture, allow this wholesale importation of tacky foreign influence into their hallowed national space? Admittedly, the Disneyland theme park had simply displaced 56 hectares of beetroot fields, but you wouldn't have to be the most xenophobic of Frenchmen to believe that a Gallic beetroot is culturally more valuable than Mickey Mouse and his eotourage. The French have even taken the subtle step of changing the park's name, from Euro Disney to Disneyland Paris, in an effort to stamp their identity on the place.

The extraordinary mix of fantasy and reality became disorienting. I wasn't in France, I wasn't in Europe, and I wasn't even really in the US. I also wasn't sure what was real and what was makebelieve. Every gust of wind or rustling leaf had me looking for the hidden

motor or secreted fan. Was it a real live horse pulling that streetcar, or an automated replica? I sat down beside a grassy hank near the Lucky Nugget Saloon, twangy Country and Western music emanating from hidden loud-speakers in the flower-bed behind me, to drink a coffee. It felt hot and looked black, and eveo smelt like real coffee, but wheo I took my first sip it became clear that this was as far as the resem-

hlance to the real thing extended. Somehow the suspended reality became sinister and even potentially dangerous. The candyfloss-piok build ings on Main Street looked almost good enough to eat, and may well have been more nourishing than the Maggi fare served up in the Restaurant Hakuna Matata. But it struck me that if you suffered a heart attack in Frontierland, or spontaneously ignited in Adventureland, the only attention you'd receive would be from a dozen dads wielding their camcorders and their numerous children shoving Disney autograph books up your nose. I suppose at least you would expire on camera, in an instant of fame entirely in keeping with the late 20th-century theme park.

© Nick Middleton. Travels as a Brussels Scout' by Nick Middleton (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £17.99) is published on 14 July. Readers of 'The Independent' can buy it for £15.99 (p&p free) by calling Littlehampton Book Services (01903 736736). Quote reference TB.

INSIDE

John Walsh meets
Frank McCourt page 3
Summer books for
children pages 8 & 9



Travel & outdoors

PLUS

Games, crossword	
Arts, reviews	4&5
Books	6,7,8,9
All Consuming	
Motoring	
Money, property	
TV, radio reviews	
Today's TV	
•	

the best literary magazine in the world

London Review

As the French prepare to celebrate the

storming of the Bastille, Nick Middleton's new book takes a wry look at another corner of France that has also been

stormed and conquered - by a mouse.

nce you're inside, the first thing

Paris is that you are no longer in

that strikes you about Disneyland

France, because nowhere in France could be so pink. The mock Southern-

belle-style buildings along Main Street, USA, are all a ghastly shade of sickly lobster, and eveo the pavements are pink. But it's clean and it's bright and

it's happy because you've entered a fau-

tasy film set where there is no litter or

graffiti; where all the cast members are

slim and use deodorant. The females all

wear appropriate underwear (or so I'm

told) and the males are clean-shaven

with short hair and oo visible tattoos. It

is the Disney Corporation's idea of what

the world ought to be like, and after just

a few hours inside the compound you

begin to understand why the US produces so many homicidal maniacs.

For in-depth reasoned argument and literary criticism, the London Review of Books match. The Sunday Times calls it the 'boldest

is hard to match. The Sunday Times calls it the 'boldest of the literary journals'. To Clive James it is 'the house magazine of the literary elite', while Alan Bennett considers it simply 'the liveliest, the most serious and also the most radical literary magazine we have'.

things, but it is not an easy read. Simply because the issues facing the world today are not easy ones. Here is just a handful of the subjects and authors which have appeared in recent issues:

Alan Bennett (his Diary), Jenny Diski (in Antarctica),
Colm Tóibín (on the sins of Catholic Ireland), Stanley

Cavell (on Adam Phillips), John Lanchester (on Fatties), Jacqueline Rose (on Virginia Woolf), James Wood (on D.H. Lawrence), Stephen Sedley (on Law and Public Life), Ian Hacking (on the Idea of Blindness), Ian Hamilton (on the FA Cup), Anne Hollander (on Yves St Laurent) and Hilary Mantel (a story).

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MT/MTE/MS/Miss

No.

The man who mistook his wife for a rucksack, and other unlikely tales from the backwaters of the world's minor sports, recounted by William Hartston

ou need speed, strong legs, and as small a wife as possible, says Jouni Jussila. And he should know. For Mr Jussila, with the help of his 100-lb wife Tuna, has just won the World Championships in Wife-Carrying, for the fifth consecutive time (though the first three were only Finnish titles, before the event went international).

The rules are simple: each contestant must carry a wife - his own, his neighbour's or one from farther afield. as long as she is more than 17 years of age - over the official 2531/z-metre track, part sand, part grass, part asphalt, including two hurdles and one chest-deep water obstacle. Dropping the wife entails a penalty of 15 seconds. The official rules also state that "each contestant takes care of his (and her) insurance, if one is deemed necessary

The competition allegedly bas its roots in 19th-century history, when Ronkainen, the local brigand, accepted into his troop only those men who proved their worth on a challenge obstacle track. Add to that the common practice of the time of stealing women from neighbouring villages, and you have the entire spirit of the age captured in the wife-carrying championships. In the modern event, there is also a team competition in which the wife is used as a baton in a three-man relay race. An additional rule also specifies the consumption of the official "wife-carrying drink" at each change-over point.

The winner is an oil worker and finished at the head of a field of 27 couples, including a Norwegian weightlifter as well as entrants from Germany and Estonia. The champion's wife confirmed that the woman's role in the event is more than that of a mere burden. "If the woman starts laughing, it's all over," she said. The event always takes place in the town of Sonkajārvi, and the first prize is a loaf of rye bread, a wife-carrying statuette and the woman's weight in beer.

And while you are in Sonkajarvi, do not miss the opportunity of visiting the International Bottle Museum "a fascinating insight into Finland's and other countries' cultural bistory". The collection comprises around 6,000 bordes from all over the world, including an old Finnish mahapullo and parrunpātka, a Chinese acupuncture perfumed mosquito-repellent bottle, and the world's finest collection of milk bottles.

Entries for the Wife-Carrying Championships were slightly down on last year, perhaps because of an unfortunate clash of dates with the World Hot Dog Eating Championships in Coney Island, New York. Until last year, the Americans had dominated the world of competitive hot dog consumption, led by their champion, Ed "The Animal" Krachie. His record of 22 hot dugs in 12 minutes had been considered almost unbeatable, hut last year the 330lb. 6ft 7in Krachie was surprisingly defeated by a Japanese



Let slip hot dogs of war



(above) gracefully iefeat to Hirofumi Nakajima at Nathan's hot dog eating contest in Coney Island

Ed Krachie

Left: Tiina and Jouni Jussila retain their world wife-carrying title

contestant, Hirofumi "The Rabbit" Japanese contestants. At the end of the from the roll and cating it before conspecified 12 minutes, Hirofumi Naka-Nakajima, who looked quite unfit for jima had retained his title, setting a the contest at only 135lb and 5ft 8in. new world record of 241/2 hot dogs, half In this year's contest, the same two started as favnurites in a field of 17, hut dog ahead of the runner-up. with Krachie huping to regain a title

Kazutoyo Arai. After taking third place, a disap-pointed Krachie was philosophical about his defeat: "It's not important to me," he said, "but it would have been great in bring it home for America." way through the event hut exper-The Americans will now go away to tenced observers knew that he had gone off too fast. After complaining ponder the secret of the Japanese success. Perhaps it lay in their preferred that he "felt like throwing up", he technique of removing the sausage slowed down and was overtaken by two

suming the bread. This certainly seemed to lead to better results than the method preferred by many of the Americans of dunking their dogs in water to soften them before consumption. Only one contestant asked for tomato ketchup. He was jeered by his rivals and finished well down the

Proudly wearing the winner's rhinestone-studded, mustard-coloured belt, Nakajima. a furniture delivery man from Kofu, revealed what he had done to train for the event. "Nothing."

he said. But he had previously won the Japanese national eating champion-ships by noshing 15 bowls of noodle soup, 100 pieces of sushi, five plates of wheat noodles, five plates of beef with rice and five plates of curry and rice. His prize this time included a 20-pack take-out order for Nathan's bot dogs.

The importance of technique in such contests was confirmed earlier this month in the first banana-eating competition ever held in Estonia. The winner, Mait Lepik, won the title by consuming 10 bananas in three minutes. His crucial time-saving secret was tn eat the skins as well. The rules had specifically forbidden contestants to engage the services of friends to peel the bananas for them, but Lepik realised that there was nothing saying that the bananas had to be peeled at all. Once he had realised that, he romped to victory and the top prize of

More minor sports in brief: Imogene Barnhart, a retired police dispatch rider, won the 10th Annual World Hog Calling Contest in Oklahoma. "I'm a champion hog-caller and husband-caller," she said.

Contestants are limbering up for next month's World Melon Seed Spitting Championships at Le Frechou in south-west France. "You have to use the frisbee technique, spitting out the seed so that it glides," advises the world record holder, Bernard Ricard. And a campaign is planned to have melnn seed spitting in the 2004 Olympics.

Games people play

Pandora Melly meets a man who sure plays a mean pinball Michael Heath, 62, cartoonist

When I'm feeling particularly flat, or faded or drunk. I go to the amusement areade in Old Compton Street and play pinball. You can take out all your frustrations - Pow! The angrier you are, the hetter

There aren't many pinhall machines left now; it's a dying art. I started playing on the West Pier at Brighton, but in those days, pinhall was less complicated. You just sent a ball up and it went donk-donk-donk and hit things and with luck you got some sort of score. Or you'd win 20 cigarettes, or a watch that blew up after three minutes, or fell off, or turned your wrist green.

Nowadays, the machines are enormnusly technical, and you need a score of 25 billion just to get a free game. They also talk to you, and if you're tonely you can talk back. When you're not doing too well, you'll hear: "Ub-oh!" or "Bad luck. Buddie!" If you get a multi-ball – which is too exciting for words – the machine might say: "OK wise guy, let's go ...
Boom!!!" And as the balls go down the wrong hole.

you get "Uh-oh, dummy!" The reason I like pinball is because it's pooh-poohed by everybody and is considered downmarket. In fact, you have to play with enormous skift You mustn't move the table, or a sign comes up that says "Tilt", which means you lose the next two balls and bave to start again. You must be quite hit to play; if you're under the weather or have flu, you'll soun find out because your reactions will be too slow.

It's quite a balletic game: the old knees go up in the air, and you use plenty of hip action. This could be quite dodgy in Old Compton Street, but fruitcakes don't play pinhalt.

'Pinball Wizard' recorded by Elton John, first entered the UK charts on 20 March 1976. It remained there for seven weeks, reaching a highest place at unmber seven.

Go is coming The British take control of an oriental game

Today, at the Daiwa Foundatinn in London, a match will begin to decide the 1997 British Go Championship. What makes the occasion unusual is that, for the first time in five years, the British title will be won by a British-born player. For the past four years, the event has been dominated by Shutai Zhang of University College, London. This time he has decided not to compete and the best of five games final will be between Matthew Macfadyen from Leamington Spa and Charles Matthews of Cambridge, Macfadyen, a six-dan player and former

European champion, is the favuurite.

Since the defeat of Garry Kasparov by Deep Blue, there has been a surge of interest in hoard gantes that computers cannot yet play well. The vastness of Go, a game played on a board of 361 squares which the players gradually fill with black and white stones, has made it impervious to the efforts of even the fastest computers. Both chess and Go demand a subtle blend of precise calculation and almost mystical positional judgement, but the balance is tilted far more strongly on the side of judgement in the game of Go. For several years a prize of \$1m has been on offer for the first person to write a Go program that can heat a top-class player. Nothing yet has remotely approached that goal, though good progress has been reported in certain limited types of tactical position.

To judge from the latest issue of the British Go Journal - 48 well-produced pages of reports, advice. history, proverbs and news - the gante is at last beginning to thrive in this country.

The first game of the British Go Championship will begin at 10.30am today at the Daiwa Foundation. 13-14 Comwall Terrace, London NW1. The second game will be played at Frend's cafe in Oxford on 27 July. For further information: Adam Atkinson, 01273-297115. The British Go Association may be contacted at 37 Courts Road, Earley, Reading RG6 7DJ, or on their Internet site at: www.britgo.demon.co.uk.

The games page is edited by William Hartston

Chess William Hartston

It is one of the great paradoxes of chess that as players get older and wiser it takes thent longer and tonger to win their games. In his youth, Anatoly Karpov used to open 1.e4, play the sharpest attacking tines and wipe his opponents from the board. Gradually, however, he learnt the incorrectness of such an approach. White's advantage is not sufficient to expect to win by direct attack. The right way to play is to nurture the advantage of the first move, using it to gain a tittle space, nr keep a slight initiative - just enough to apply pressure in the

endgame.
One side effect of this perfectionist approach is a large number of draws, but when the wins do come after 60 or 70 moves usuatty, they are generally positional gems. Try this game, for example, from the current tournament in Dortmund. White achieves next to nothing from the opening, but when Yusupov fights for a little more space on the Q-side with 18...a5, Karpov sees his chance. The position revolves around what happens to the pawns on d4 and c5. White does not want to play dxe5, which will bring the black knight to a good square. But Black fears that ... Cxd4 will be met by Nxd4, with the knight later jumping in 10

b5 or c6. After 18...a5. White has another option. which he brings into play

that all true Antericans believed to be

part of their heritage. When it came

to the crunch, however, Krachie fell

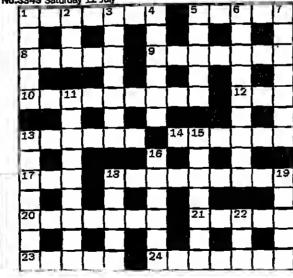
below his best. He took the lead half-

with 23.d5! and 27.a4! The result is to leave White with a good K-side majority, while Black's pawns on the Q-side are blocked. The rest, for Karpov, was just technique At the end 63...Nxe7 64.Kxe7 Kb4 65.Nd2 Kc3 66.Kd6 wins by one move.

White: Anatoly Karpov

Black: Artur Yusupov 1 d4 Nf6 33 f3 Ke7 34 Ke2 Oc6 3 NB d5 35 Qc3 Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7 36 K£2 Kd7 5 Bg5 h6 6 Bh4 0-0 7 e3 Ne4 8 Bxe7 Qxc7 9 Rc1 c6 10 Bd3 Nxc3 42 Nc4 gxf3 11 Rxc3 dxc4 43 Kxf3 Kd5 12 Bxc4 Nd7 44 Nxa5 g5 13 0-0 b6 45 Ne4 h5 14 Bd3 e5 15 Be4 Rb8 47 e4 Nc8 16 Qa4 Bh7 48 Ke3 Nc7 17 Bxb7 Rxb7 49 Nc4+ Kf6 18 Qc2 a5 19 a3 Re8 51 Kg3 Nb4 20 Rd1 Rhb8 52 h4 Nc6 21 h3 Rbd8 53 a5 Nb4 22 Red3 Res 54 Nd2 Ne6 23 d5 exd5 24 Rxd5 Nf6 56 Kxh4 Ke6 25 Re5 Qc7 57 Kxh5 Kd7 26 Rxe8 RxeS 58 Kg6 Kc7 27 a4 Rd8 59 No4 KhS 28 Rxd8 Qxd8 60 Kf6 Ka7 29 Ne5 Qd5 61 e5 Kxa6 30 Nc4 Nd7 62 e6 Kh5 31 b3 f5 63 c7 resigns 32 Kfl Kf7

Concise crossword



37 g4 Kc6 38 Qe5 Qxe5 39 Nxc5 Kd5 40 Nc4 fxg4 41 Nxb6 Kc6 46 Nd2 Ke5 50 KE Na6 55 a6 gxh4+

ACROSS

Splitting nucleus of atom Vessels (5) Low spirits (5) Rejects (7) 10 Seaside walk (4) 12 Regret [3) 13 Provoke to action (6) Austrian composer (6) Friend (3) 18 Mountain range (9) 20 Mechanic's tool (7) 21 Permitted allocation (5) 23 Poem (5) 24 Precious stone (7)

DOWN

Disgruntled (3.2) Examine (7) European country (6) Sword (5) Hospital (9) Mistrust (7) Swing (9) Deadlock (7) Slanted (7) Come out (6) 18 Commentent (5) Burn with hot liquid (5) 22 Eggs (3)

Solution to yesterday's Coocise Crossword:

ACROSS: 1 Holly, 3 Decamps (Holiday comps), 8 Petunia, 9 Relax, 10 First, 11 Omicron, 13 Zam, 15 Laurel, 17 Thrash, 20 Echo, 22 Chapter, 24 Locum, 26 Amaze, 27 Titular, 28 Sceptic, 29 Rmes, DOWN: 1 Hopeful, 2 Later, 5 Yangtze, 4 Deacon, 5 Corp., 6 Malaria, 7 Saxon, 12 Myth, 14 Alee, 16 Unaware, 18 Holsier, 19 Humerus, 21 Chief, 23 Thrash, 26 Color

Bridge Alan Hiron

Game all; dealer South North **♦**0 10 7 3 ØA O OAJ952 **♣**84 West ◆84 ♥K752 Fast ♥1098643 073 ♣KQ 1093 9K4 **♣**7652 South **◆**AKJ652 0Q1086 #AJ

Faced with a choice of finesses in Six Spades on this deal from rubber bridge, South had a problem. If he took the wrong finesse first, it would be too late to try the second. It would have been easy to miss the best psychological play.

South opened i A and North

responded 2NT - a conventional hid, agreeing spades, forcing to game, and inviting partner to show a shortage if he was interested in progressing beyond

Perplexity

"How did you say you remember the number of your favourite Hackney carriage? Sherlock Holmes asked his companion.

"I just remind myself," said Wassin, "that I'm twice the man you are, and I recall the laws." paper: HOLMES+HOLMES = WATSON. "So if each letter represents a different digit, from 0 to 9, and no word or name may hegin with zero, we seek the value of LAWS" he mused,

game. South dutifully hid 3 9 and, although this did not improve North's hand (be would have toved to hear 30!) he pushed on with a cue-bid of 4 0 After all, the bidding was still below the game level. South

needed no further encouragement and the final contract was o ♠ against which West led the ♣ K.

Well, after winning and drawing trumps, would you finesse in hearts or diamonds? In a pairs competition you might be tempted to pin your hopes on the diamonds for, if the finesse wins, you witl make an invaluable overtrick.

At rubber bridge, however, the extra 30 points are unimportant. The hest bet, after drawing trumps, is to lead the Q from hand at trick four. If West shows no sign of interest (and he might well have had a problem if he had started with the OK), go up with dummy's ace and rely on the heart finesse. This play also gives the extra chance of finding East with the singleton OK.

Holmes scribbled on a piece of

Can you help him?

A prize of the Chambers 21st Dictionary will be awarded to the sender of the first correct answer we open on 24 July. Answers to: Perplexity, The Independent. l Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E145DL

28 June answers: Lauret & Hardy (berd aurally) Batman & Robin (rabbit Manon) Samson & Delilah (nasal demolish) Winner: Jane Brown (Plymstock)

Backgammon Chris Bray

The tournament season, and in particular the World Championships in Monte Carlo, are upon us, so tournament play will be the theme of our next few articles. Tournament matches, as you probably know, are won by the first to reach a specified number of points. A weekly club tournament will typically be to 7 points while the finals of major tournaments are played to 25 points or more. A newer format is to

450

play the best of five 9-point matches. When one player reaches match point the next game is played without the doubting cube in use. This is known as the "Crawford Game", named after John Crawford who introduced the rule to reduce some of the bias in favour of the trailing player. This bias occurs because the trailer will double on the first move of each game after his opponent reaches match point. Thus the trailer will win 2 or 4 points on each game and he risks nothing by dnubling because if he loses the game he loses the match.

Unlike money play, where each game can be treated on its own merits, in match play the score is paramount and, particularly in the later stages of a match, both cube action and move selection can be dictated by the score. As a simple example, suppose that in a match to 7 points you are leading 6-5 after the Crawford Game. Your opponent opens with a 31. making his 5-point. You roll h3 and play 24/15. Your opponent doubles - dn you take? The answer is a very clear no. If you take, this will be the last game of the match and you will be at a distinct disadvantage. If you drop, the next game will be the last hut at least you will have the chance of winning the opening roll. Whenever your opponent has an odd number of points post-Crawford, you always have the option of exercising what is known as your free drop.

However, if the score is 6-4 and the same sequence occurs then you must take. At 6-4 your opponent needs to win two games to win the match, you can't afford to give him one of those games for nothing.

As an example of the score dictating move strategy let's suppose you lead 6-3 post-Crawford. How would you play an opening 32? Requiring only a simple win you should steer for a simple position and play 24/21, 13/11. If, however, you trailed 3-6 and rolled 32 then you must play 13/10, 13/11. You would love to win a gammon (it would win the match for you) and playing 13/10, 13/11 leads to more prime v prime games and generates far more gammons than 24/21, 13/11.

For the weather, traffic reports, the sky at night, and Damien Hurts the cartoon sage of artistic angst ... TURN TO PAGE

Escape from Losers' Lane

signing copies of Angela's Ashes, the hest-selling memoir of his tragic childhood in the city's sluminfested lanes. The man thrust a photograph under McCourt's nose, a crumpled snap of the writer's junior class at Leamy's National School. "D'you know what that is?" he demanded, Yeah, said McCourt. it's my class picture. "I was in your class," said the man. "D'you know which one I am?" I dunno, said McCourt, "I've been out of the country for nearly 50 years."
"You!" said the man with sudden violence. You're a disgrace to Ireland, and the Church and your mother and - here's what I think of your book" - and, with that, he snatched up a paperback of Angela's - ishes, tore it in half, then ripped the two balves to pieces that settled like leaves on the floor of O'Mahoney's bookshop.

Mr McCourt is getting used to being attacked by Irish patriots and Irish-Amer-

attacked by Irish patriots and Irish-American expatriates who are embarrassed by the experiences so graphically recalled in his book. Though it picked up, on publication last autumn, an unprecedented flood of tear-stained reviews, got serialised in the New Yorker, won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography, and the National Book Award, and hit the No 1 slot in the US bestseller list, and got its author lionised and dragged on to chat-shows from Brooklyn to Ballygohackwards, and is now being filmed despite all this, his pitiless truth-telling hasn't been received with undiluted rapture.

 $x \in \mathbb{R}^d$

-11z

or Paul

143

"I've bad letters in America from fundamentalist Christians, saying I was blas-phemous and sacrilegious," be rasps, "and letters from County Clare saying I'm a disgrace. I've been attacked by women in shops for ahusing my old school ... " Did people think his portrayal of late-Thirties Ireland was false, or that he shouldn't have painted it so accurately? He considered. "When Ireland was occupied by the English, the Irish were like American blacks. They'd present a front to the British, to the white man. You didn't tell the secrets. You didn't betray the tribe. So writers are now regarded as traitors, because we let all hang out, and they think we're betraymg ourselves to the English. But I love the indignant letters. I'm keeping a file..."

If you haven't read Angela's Ashes, let me remind you what all the fuss is about. It's a relentless, if jaunty, chronicle of poverty. degradation and want. It tells how Frank McCourt was conceived in 1930 Brooklyn during a knee-trembler involving Malachy McCourt from Antrim, former IRA jailbird, and Angela Sheehan from Limerick. Forced into a shorgun wedding, they pro-Malachy junior, and the twins Eugene and Oliver. It was the height of the Depression and they were always poor. Malachy drank away his sporadic earnings, but gave it up when his daughter, Margaret, was born. She died two months later. Malachy fell off the wagon; Angela became catatonic with grief. Supportive neighbours called in her domineering cousins, who packed the family off to Ireland and, they supposed, a new life far from the New York Depression. What the hapless McCourts found there was infinitely worse. Denied work in Belfast, or help from the Dublin IRA, alachy, Angela and the children fetched up in Limerick with Angela's Ada Doomlike mother and shrewish sister, Aggie. A one-room flat with a flea-ridden mattress hrought disease. Oliver died of a fever. Eugene, aged one, kept a pathetic vigil at the window for his departed twin, then he too died of pneumonia six months later. The family relocated to the worryinglynamed Roden Lane, where the next-door lavatory turned out to be the lane's communal privy, and where the damp made the ground floor uninhabitable in winter. The family lived upstairs (which they bleakly christen "Italy"), only descending back to "Ircland" when the weather allowed.

The book settles into a steady rhythm of hunger, sickness, Catholic bullying and begrudging charity. There are chits from the St Vincent de Paul Society, visits to the Labour Exchange and trips to the Fever Hospital (where Frank is diagnosed with typhoid), and ceaseless, repetitive waits for the father to come home before all the dole money is pissed way. Frantic women beg for the sweep-ings from the floor of Rank's Flour Mills. Children trawl the Dock Road in the rain searching for lumps of coal spilled from lurries. Two more children are born...

guy came up to Frank McCourt in O'Mahoney's bookshop, Limerick, last week as he was signing copies of Arada's like an unusually entertaining low-life soap opera because of McCourt's unpolished but lively style – a vivid, genial surge, Malachy's own father was a bungling part-Dickens, part-Joyce, full of wonderful compersations in stage-Irish demotic. So densely remembered is it, so filled with suspiciously picturesque scenes (such as Frank carrying a pig's head home for Christmas dinner, with the brown paper falling off it until the provine head is clamped to his chest like a decapitated martyr's - very Fellini) that some people wondered if McCourt might have invented or embroidered the details.

"All of this... happened," he says with a hurt tone. "I remember something Gore Vidal said, about his book Palimpsess, that an autobiography tries to tell the facts of your life, while a memoir tries to give the impressions of your life. There were so many dramatic things in my life, I only put in a fraction of what I could recall. Scenes like my mother having to go to the dis-pensary to apply for public assistance when my father deserted us. My mother begging for scraps at the door of the priest's house. My mother trying to throw herself into the grave of Eugene, on a louring day, and her shricking like a banshee, with jackdaws flying around, and I was thinking, Would she really allow herself to



John Walsh meets Frank McCourt

be buried and leave us? That was all I had to remember..."
Readers of the book look at McCourt

today, and consider what a survivor be is. A good-looking man, in the James Stewart mould but shorter, be is deathly pale, with snow-white hair and hurt brown eyes. He speaks softly (with a pronounced Irish accent still) but with a palpable rage not far beneath the surface. He radiates an ineffable weariness, as if the release of his bottled-up, Gogolian remembrances had left him exhausted rather than elated. "The book wasn't meant to be therapeutic," be says. "And it didn't turn out that way. Where there's memory, there's no catharsis..." It's clear he is still deeply traumatised by the past. He is quite caoable of weeping at bookshop readings. where his wife Ellen chooses passages for him to read. But he is good company exasperated by literary symposia, and by

'I arrived in New York as damaged goods, at 19. And I have to ask, who did it to me?"

those who want to claim him as a post-Joyce artiste, fascinated by Irish conversational idioms (bow, for instance, asking a grown-up "Why?" would elicit the reply. "Why? No wby. Every why"), and good at mimicking the accents of the downtrodden Irish Catholic matron. "You know how the old Irish confessional used to have penitents in boxes on either side of the priest? I used to listen to married women saying [adopts reedy Mrs Doyle-from-Father-Ted accent], 'I didn't do me wifely duty, father. I had a bad headache.' and the priest saying, 'That's no excuse...'" McCourt's father is a constant puzzle. A

feckless, sentimental drunkard, who thought nothing of resting his pint on the white coffin he was taking home to bury a dead son in, he is still granted a lot of charm. Sometimes, he makes things all right. He loves his children, but he deserts them when he leaves for England during the war and gradually drops out of the story. Did he think of him as a bero or a villain?

"A hero," says McCourt, without a second's thought. "He was a hero even though be didn't bring home the bacon. the goods, the money, even though he drank our lives away. When he was sober, he was the perfect father. But when he went to England, that was it. He didn't send us money, he left us literally to the mother. Probably not Julia Roberts...'

IRA activist and setter of booby-traps. He became obsessed with the romantic past. In his cups, he'd get his children out of bed. sing "Kevin Barry" and "Roddy McCorley". and make the shivering tots promise to die for Ireland. I ask if the recent events in Drumcree have awakened any Republican echoes in the son's heart. "None. I despise them all, on both sides, because they're so stupid and inhuman. They're just gangs now. The noble cause has gone out the win-dow. How can they do this, when all they need to do is behave like Gandhi or Mar-tin Luther King? Why can't they adopt these tactics instead of causing revulsion all over the world? Why can't they be sman? After his father left, the family hit rock-

bottom. They were evicted from their damp death-trap after they started pulling planks off the wall for firewood. Frank left school at 12, fived with his grandmother. delivered newspapers with his mad uncle, became a telegram boy and resolved to save up his fare back to the US.

"I arrived in New York as damaged goods, at 19," he says. "And I have to ask, Who did it to me? And to my brothers and everyone else—if you go to New York now, the amount of drinking among the young Irish is massive. And the violence. Where does it come from?" Does he blame the Catholic church? Or his father? Or poverty? "All of the above. It's a state of mind you get into. Because we weren't allowed the luxury of introspection. Freud apparently once said. There's one race of people for whom psychoanalysis is no use whatsoever: the Irish, Because they - we - are so brainwashed by Catbolicism. I

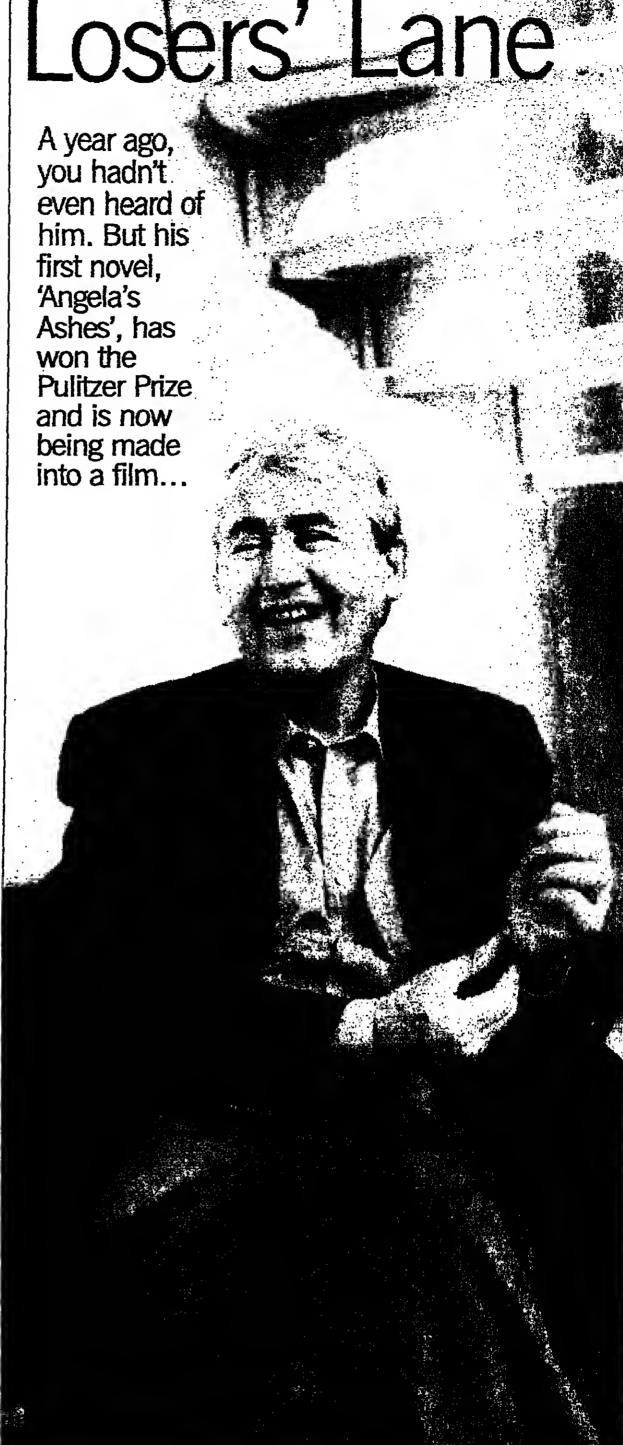
was completely ill-equipped for American life, for any kind of life. I wasn't illiterate, just ill-educated, in every department. I had no self-esteem. It was hard for me to make friends. It was hard for me to approach girls. I thought of myself as a species of scarecrow, with bad hair, bad teetb, bad skin." What he needed was "some sense of accomplishment in some area" and he found it, at last, in teaching, with a BA degree from New York University, and a job in a Staten Island high school, one of the worst schools in the Big Bagel. "People said, don't go near a vocational high school. They'll kill you. But I survived, hecause there was an empathy with the kids. I adapted to them, rather than the other way around."

An odd air of fated hopelessness hangs over McCourt's family. His three brothers came to join him in America, and all fell into alcoholism. His mother joined him in 1959 and stayed till her death in 1982. to find one big happy family, but it wasn't. She wanted us to marry a nice Irish Catholic girl, but none of us did. She used to say, 'Every time I cross the floor, I'm trippin' over little Jews and Protestants." And the children would say, 'Dad, what was Nanna doin' to me in the middle of the night pourin' water on my head?' because she'd try to haptise everything..."

By the first of his three wives, McCourt had a daughter of his own, whom be

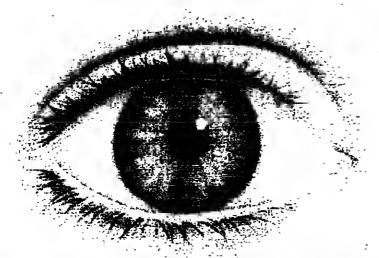
named Margaret after his dead sister. He wanted the world for ber. "I had a dream of being a Kodak Daddy. I thought I'd bave this child, who'd go to kindergarten and graduate from there with a little mortar board and gown, and I'd be there, click tar board and gown, and I'd be there, click click, and she'd go to elementary school and graduate and I'd be there again, click click, proud father, then she'd go to a high school (click click), then one of those sweet little colleges in New England, and she'd marry a quarterback called Chuck with powerful shoulders and terrific teeth and they'd have 2.3 children that I'd be proud of, and I'd be click click click all the way." What bappened? "Sbe became a Dead-head. She took off at 16, following the Grateful Dead across America, and the Grateful Dead across America, and I followed her trying to pluck ber out of situations. When Jerry Garcia died last year, there was one man in America who

Nothing has gone right for McCourt's family and relationships – until now, as he accepts the cheers of the readerly multitudes, and glows in the company of his nice Californian wife, Ellen. He has learnt that you mostly never get what you want, that your most glamorous dreams are probably doomed. He wants Stephen Rea to play his father in the movie, because "he's from the North. He has the perfect hangdog look". And to play his mother? "I dunno about



Sharon Davey on the joys of school reunions; Jasper Rees on TV; Robert Hanks on Radio. Turn to PAGE

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arts & books

ne of the many memorable aspects of the EMI Centenary concert at Birmingham's Symphony Hall Nigel Kennedy's warmup chat to the audience before he and Simon Rattle gave

arts notebook a brilliant reading of Elgar's violin concerto. Kennedy. adopting force people to do it." Instead, the chirpy cockney accent that he is planning related art exhihas come as a complete shock to his mother, said he wanted to test the acoustics but there weren't enough bald heads in the audience. In music-hall

of bonus pieces of Bach he was throwing in. This is a break with classical music practice. Some traditions are sacrosanct. You cough but don't clap between

style be then looked a bit harder and found some, then

talked about the concerto, and

buffet and drinks REFORE THE ADAGIO, HAVE THE DA HEARD ACTRESS AND

shows detailed musical knowledge. A mute soloist is another musical tradition, But Kennedy's repartee, which must equate to Al Jolson suddenly speaking on screen after years of silent films, may catch on. The Academy of St Martinin-the Fields, the orchestra paying punters.

movies destroyed a million shriek, so some of the great soloists whose playing can stro is a pop star banality of the "I tike this, hope you do too" variety. Silence can build its own mystique.

Graham Sheffield, director has made efforts to change the experience of the classical



interviews with composers of new works on stage before the work is performed so that the audience can put a face to the piece. "It reduces the fear factor," he says. "I'd tike to encourage more soloists to talk to the audi-

ence but you can't bitions for audiences to look at in the interval. Why do I have a strange feeling that Nigel has been taking up painting during his lengthy sabbatical?

The Victoria and Albert Museum may charge for played and described a couple admission, the Tate Gallery may be free. But when it comes to parties, the V&A scores full marks for egalitarianism. Their summer party last Wednesday in the gorgeous Victorian gardens, movements, for instance. A accompanied by jazz band.

> and sunshine, was attended by 1,500 people. free to Friends of the V&A, just £3 for members of the public. The Tate and the National Theatre bave had £300-a-head fundraising bashes this summer. And no one can dispute that the revenue raised is sorely needed. But it's good to see an

arts institution particularly rasping cough remembering its regular patrons when it's party time.

Radio 1 organised a reunion picture of its first DJs (those that are still alive) yesterday to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the station this summer. But I found when I was researching my new biography of Radio that took Kennedy to a concert 1 stalwart Kenny Everett that in Hone Kong last month, is not all the broadcasters had now thinking of asking other the happy memories that will Of course, just as some of amazed to find they now bad the beauty queens of the silent to have producers: Ed Stewart had a pencil thrown at his nose fantasies with a bigh-pitched for forgetting to give his producer a name cbeck; and Everett himself was hauled move you to tears could be over the coals many times for inarticulate. The last thing exposing the restrictive pracone wants to hear from a mae- tices of the Musicians Union. "You can't have the Northern Dance Orchestra playing The Beatles," he wailed on the air. They don't sound like The Beatles. Worse, they sound of arts at the Barbican Centre. like the Northern Dance Orchestra."

The NDO were not at yes-



For 40 years, Nek Chand has been creating a fantasy 'kingdom' in an Indian forest. By Naseem Khan

t was "just a hobby", says Nek Chand, self-deprecatingly. Hardly an apposite word. A "hobby suggests some small and inoffensive activity - like stamp-collecting or train-spotting. It does not begin to cover the creation of a whole secret empire, peopled by literally hundreds of sculptures, all made out of waste.

Nek Chand, now 72, is a quiet, selfcontained man, unimpressed by the international status his "hobby" has brought him. "I am not an artist - that is just what people call me now. I am a worker, like my father.'

The son of a small farmer from North India, Chand has always felt the urge to make things, he explains, but he left school early, eventually becoming a supervisor of road construction around the city of Chandigarh, in the far north of the country. The desire to create never deserted him, however, and the idea slowly grew of making objects from natural materials. Stones were his first inspiration - strangeof its soloists to chat to the be fed us this summer. Most of shaped boulders that his fantasy would the ex-pirate radio DJs were transform into all sorts of imagined beings. Chand began to collect suitable stones, searching the Himalayan foothills and riverbeds, and transporting promising specimens back bome on the back of his bicycle. His living conditions were hardly suitable for a studio, though, so he took the hold step of covertly clearing a space in the middle of a large area of untamed undergrowth. His first act there was to build himself a small but -8ft square - "for sitting in", he says gravely. In this secret and illegal spot. he then began to amass his material. Between 1958 and 1976, Chand

POOR

DEADLY



Nek Chand's Rock Garden (top) covers 35 acres, and is still Apna Arts / Paul Rogers growing

lamps, reject lavatory bowls. To him, nothing was useless. And, as the years went by, his forest clearing bas gone on burgeoning. Today, it covgradually became bigger and bigger, to accommodate his growing "king-dom" of life-size sculptures: animals, humans and fantasy creations.

Sitting in his hut after work-burning cycle tyres when the natural light failed - he would study his latest finds to see what they suggested. Bears peered out at him from cycle frames: bicycle seats became rows of manikins; hair swept up from barbershop floors decorated his human figures: waste cement provided the foundation for his statues.

Slowly, whole armies of figures

eve) at the Coliseum, London WC2 (0171-632 8300). Season ends 9 Aug.

Superbly danced and often

the rest of the season lives

up to this triumphant

hilariously funny. Let's hope

children in on the secret, and after that they all worked away together in what be called his "rock garden". They were all careful to keep the secret - their very livelibood, they thought, depended on it. "I was afraid I might be shunted out of my job for encroach-

ing on government land," says Chand. Then, in 1974, disaster loomed. The government started clearing the wilderness land: discovery was inevitable. "When they came," Chand recalls, "they saw some of what I had created in the forest." They must have been surprised? "More than surprised," be

says, with the ghost of a smile.
It could all have ended in tragedy. But such was the impact on the public of the revelation of Nek Chand's amazing "rock garden" that no one dared to knock it down. Chand did lose his job on the road works, but was given a grant to carry on sculpting instead, with a team of assistants and a truck into the bargain.

Since those days, the Rock Garden ers 35 acres and is still growing. though Chand no longer does the physical work himself. Access is gained through a series of low doorways, designed, says Chand, so that visitors have to duck down, so increasing their sense of magic. Twisting paths are also designed to confuse their sense of direction. Thus disoriented, many visitors little realise, as they emerge, that they are only feet away from where they first went in.
"When they come out," says Chand with satisfaction, "they are smiling."

tinued to spread. When 10 years or so to construct a 100ft mountain, com-had gone by, he let his wife and two plete with waterfulls (using recycled rainwater), while huge spectral trees have sprouted up, constructed from concrete. He has also been commissioned to create a fantasy garden for the Children's Museum in Washington.

And Chand has been visiting Britain to open exhibitions of his work in London and Nottingham, where he has also been leading workshops on behalf of Apna Arts, a Nottingham-based body that has consistently sought high-profile opportunities for local Asian arts and artists. So it was that in May I found Chand in the middle of a huge grassy sward in front of Nottingham's Wollaton Hall, at the still eye of a storm. Around him, a camp of marquees was being set up for the city's annual mela. Sound towers were growing, men were noisily rigging up lights. Chand himself was in a quiet tent full of rubbish - tangles of metal. mounds of miscellaneous junk, heaps of odd items (a gross of shiny plastic imitation lipsticks, a pile of redundant circuit-boards). These were the raw materials for a week-long workshop with four up-and-coming British artists, all of Asian origin. Within that week, they were to see what they could come up with using Chand and his

work as their inspiration and catalyst. It was Chand's generosity of nature - that distinctive brand of innocence which sbines through all his work that most impacted on the artists rather than any particular teaching skill. None of the four were working in the "Nek Chand style", Anu Patel, for instance, had responded to the slim grace of lengths of steel piping and was beginning to make a slender

Pearson, is at the National Gallery (0171-747 2885) to 28 Sept.

A well-put together and

strangely revealing show which leads you to think,

'Is that all there is?"

covering over the elegant skeletal shape, but he did not press his point. It's his simplicity that is so impressive, observed Said Adruss, as he worked on his own plans for a sharp comment on civic neatness. Usha Mahenthiralingam agreed; an ex-screen printer who had been forced to give it up when the chemicals disagreed with her, she welcomed the environmental friendliness of the work. But the most telling vignette came with the fourth artist, Krishan Alageswaran, A commicist, he had never before had to deal with a down-to-earth mater ial like cement, and was nervously preparing to mix some, when Chand quietly squatted down beside him and proceeded in defily mix cement and sharp sand together with a few econontic movements of his bare hands. "And how do you know how much water to add?" asked Krishna anxionsly. "You just pour," said Chand. in the kindly, reassuring tine of a man telling a child how to boil an egg, "and you will know."

That little exchange spoke volumes: the simplicity of the technique, the single-mindedness of the vision, the unerring determination to make bricks out of straw (or whatever else was to hand), as well as Nek Chand's generous openness. By the end of the session, Alageswaran had absorbed the new technique into his own method of making moulds, and the interchange had moved that bit further on.

'Nek Chond Shows the Way', an exhibition of photographs and sculpture from the Rock Gardens, is at Water mans Arts Centre. Middx (0181-847 5651) to 17 August: Midlands Arts Centre, Birmingham (0121-440 4221), 26 July-14 Sept

THE FILM

Swingers

Doug Liman's feature debut is a

comedy about a struggling New York actor (played by the film's writer, Jon

Favreau) who returns to dating after

the collapse of his six-year relationship and heads off to LA, via

Ryan Gilbey admired "this warm and witty American comedy ... Liman shot the picture quickly and cheaply, and it has a kinetic feel without seeming

ragged." "It's fun to watch ensemble

playing for a good director that makes your average Hollywood movie look totally fake," approved The Guardian

"Fresh and witty ... even those after

pleasure in Swingers," smiled The Times. "Too messily constructed to be

an undiluted joy and snagged by a

sense of complacency ... nonetheless

a refreshing take on young men,"
nodded The Standard, "Ninety minutes
spent learning how not to pick up girls

.. this is what the movies were made

for, isn't it?" noted Time Out. "You will never listen to the Bee Gees again in the same way." grinned the FT.

Cert 15, 96 minutes, all over London

and on general release.

authentic fun. Favreau

is so hip he's making

Ironic, painfully

to male camaraderie may take

Vegas, with his no-hoper mates including Vince Vaughn.





Ambassadors, London WC2 (0171-565 5000) to 26 July.

An impeccably acted

evening of storytelling lit

Load of old dholaks

As the SBC's 'Rhythm Sticks' festival begins to bang its drum for all things percussive, William Hartston, The Independent's games editor, beats a path to the door of bongo expert, Pete Lockett

oats must have a terrible time in India, if the instrument store of Pete Lockett is any indication. Quite apart from several drums strung with goat-skin (it produces a higher and more vibrant tone than the thicker buffalo hide), be has a jangly thing on a string made from a collection of goats' toenails and sounding like... well, rather like goats' toenails being jangled, and another item with what look like dried-up seed pods, which produce a susurrant rattling sound. "I was told these are goats' testicles," he says, as he looks at them with some suspicion. "Maybe they're not."

When a man already has frame

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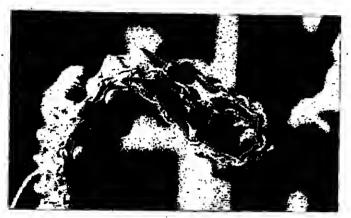
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scarcely been attempted before. "When I first learnt rhythm and drumming, I split it up into bars," he explains. But that is the Western idiom. The Indian style, by contrast, more often starts with a phrase, then repeats it with its length changed by adding or subtracting syllables of sound. The same phrase then recurs out of phase with the original metre in a manner that can sound both exciting and disturbing to a West-

The origins of such rhythmic complexity interest Pete Lockett greatly. As he coaxes wonderful sonnds from an Egyptian tabla a deeper and more guttural



mrindagam, ghatam, kanjira, a collection of tablas (both Indian and Egyptian), dholak, bodhran, ren, udu and all sorts of other more or less conventional instruments among his percussion collection, you may wonder why be needs goats' goolies as well. But for a multi-percussionist like Pete Lockett - whose Network of Sparks collaboration with Bill Bruford (late of Yes and King Crimson) forms one of the high points of this week's South Bank Rhythm Sticks festival - even such testicular offcuts can play a part in the creation of a musical style that seeks to integrate sounds and rhythms from complicated than that. Da, for different cultures - "creating new example, is Na (striking the rim controlling each band, both 7.30pm in the Purcell Room; Pete juxtapositions", as Lockett puts it, of the high drum) + Ge (a reso working simultaneously in dif- Lockett's Network of Rhythms different cultures - "creating new hetween Western classical and nant sound on the bass). This ferent rhythms. "You don't do it workshop on Sun 20 July, 11.30 am-like that," says Pete Lockett, 1pm, in the RFH Hothouse. southern Indian, in a way that has man to perform some verbal "you think of it as a composite Booking | info: 0171-960 4242

drums, taiko drums, bongos, he says: "I guess if you could speak the language, you could play the drum better." He then utters a fine series of noises similar to those of an over-excited Arabic speaker while also sharing the cadences and rbythms of the sounds that have just

emerged from the drum. He shows me a book of tabla rhythms that had been dictated by an Indian colleague on the phone. For such conversations, they have devised a basic rhythmic vocabulary of five drum beats: Ta, Ti, Ki. Da, Tum, each signifying a dif-ferent region of one of the two drums. But, of course, it's more

drumming over the phone in a way that lets the other translate it to his tabla. "But you should hear him on the phone speaking Tamil," Pete Lockett says "If yon could sample off a bit of that, would be amazing."

The concept of innate lan-

guage-based rhythms is something that has also interested psychologists. Recent research has suggested that we are all born with a propensity to listen to peri-odic sounds and this enables every baby to acquire the basic lift of its mother early in the first year of life. A good deal of research has been done to see if such problems as dyslexia, stammering, or even straightforward clumsiness are correlated with a basic rhythmic inability, but no very clear conclusions have been reached. One research paper in 1993 even analysed the rhythmic structure of babies' crying, concluding that "an ontogenetic history of the rhythms of infant cry sounds may contribute to understanding organismic and environmental experiences that contribute to development" ("Rhythmic organization of the sound of the infant crying" by PS Zeskind, S Parker-Price and RG Barr, Developmental Psychobiology,

Browsing through the litera-

ture in general, however, it is hard to escape the conclusion that rhythm is something hetter understood by a multi-percussionist than a psychologist. Especially on the question of those finger-twistingly difficult exercises in which one tries to persuade the two hands to tap in different rhythms at the same time. The simplest form is to tap three beats to the bar with your right hand while tapping two to the same bar with your left. If you find that too easy, you can try five to the bar with one hand and three with the other. Psychologists have puzzled for decades over what is going on in the two hemispheres of the brain, one Network of Sparks is on Monday at

September 1993).

single rhythm performed by both hands." Which was precisely the conclusion reached by JJ Summers, SK Ford and IA Todd in their paper "Practice effects on the co-ordination of the two hands in a bimanual tapping task" in the journal Human Movement Science in 1993.

Listening to Pete Lockett talking as his fingers hlur into highspeed, intricate bongo drumming rhythms, you would conclude that, for him, the only difficult hit about drumming is the muscular pain you may get in your legs from holding the bongos between your knees for a long period. After a brief lesson from him on the bongos, I can confirm that they leave your fingers feeling pretty sore too. At least they would have if I hadn't kept getting them tangled with my thumbs when trying to co-ordinate a pathetically simple rhythm.

Now here's one for you to try at bome. It's an example of the Indian style of syllable-dropping. All you bave to do is clap four beats to the bar while speaking this 15-beat chant: Ta-Ka-Di-Me Ta-Ka-Di-Me Ta-Ka-Di-Me Ta-Ki-Ta, stressing the initial Ta each time. So far, so good, because each Ta occurs on the first beat of the bar. But then you immediately repeat the 15-beat phrase, starting on the next beat, which is the final one of the fourth bar. Your clapping stress is thrown out of sync with your speaking stress and, if you're anything like me, your hands refuse to co-operate. And as for getting to the end of the third set of 15-beats, then ending it all with three Ta-Ti-Ki-Da-Tum-Ta cadences... well, I think I had better stick to the bongos. After all, there are worse things than sore fingers and knees. Especially if you're a goat.

The SBC's Rhythm Sticks festival nens for one week from tomorrow Pete Lockett and Bill Bruford's





Anglo-Saxon platitudes

THEATRE The Wuffings Notcutts Nursery, Wickham Market, near Woodbridge, Suffolk

Theatre, and a crash course in the history of the Angles, and what have you got? Answer: The Wuffings, an everyday story of Anglo-Saxon royal folk. Soap opera meets historical pageant.

East Angles, with ambitions to be ruler of all of Britain, who was interred in the famous ship burial at Sutton Hoo (just down the road from the potting shed). Married to him is Edith, a kind of low-rent pagan Lady Macheth, and harking round her are three even lower-rent Weird Sisters. Except that these are the sisters of word. the Angle-Saxon concept of destiny. Raedwald's problem, as the Venerable Bede

saw it, was that he couldn't decide whether to be a Christian or a pagan. Having been converted by St Augustine (who sports perhaps the world's carliest pair of sunglasses), he kept two sets of altars at home: The Word versus Wyrd. It was a choice that seems to have been far more political than truly religious. Kevin Crossley-Holland and Ivan Cutting's play (performed by Eastern Angles) is not a sophisticated entertainment but, like some party political broadcast on behalf of the pagans, it continually rams home this historical point about how cynical some of the early Christians' motives were for converting.
The play draws a few sly comparisons between

Christian and pagan myths. Edith's disgust at the idea of drinking Christ's blood is juxtaposed with the story of the hero Beowulf sucking blood from the monster Grendel. The god Woden won wisdom by crucifying himself on the cosmic ash tree.

There are also cheeky moments in which the traditional roles of pagans and Christians are reversed: You need a long spoon to sup with these people," says Edith, contemplating the God squad. And you would. The early Chris-

Pring together Europe's largest potting shed, the Year of Opera and Musical Theatre, and a crash course in the history against the Northumbrian king, be chooses to fight as "one army under two gods". Sound

familiar from Hong Kong?
Whether this fictional Raedwald (Stephen Head of the family is Raedwald, king of the Finegold) would have made the grade in the real world of Anglo-Saxon warrior kings is questionable. Imagine trying to placate a retinue of gold-hungry camp-followers with a raised eye-brow or sarky look. He's no wimp: he swings a sword with the best of them in the sword-swinging scene. He is a bit fey, though, as if always on the point of saying, "Hey-bo, this kingship lark. Stuff that for a game of soldiers."

Edith has a bit more spunk, but gets little chance to use it. And that's part of the problem. Anglo-Saxon history is intrinsically interesting, but the domestic life of the Wuffing family is really quite dull. You want the Borgias. This is more like the Archers. It does look magnificent. A 90ft-long sandy

beach is littered with the type of ironwork (cauldrons, silvery birdbaths, burning braziers) you might find in Islington's trendier furniture shops. There's a lot of use made of old church pews, which are shuffled around to create boats. walls and even a burial mound,

There's one thrilling moment when an external door opens to reveal a furnace of red light, from which a blacksmith emerges, plunging his sword into one of the birdbaths with an audible sizzle. But, generally, The Wuffings is surprisingly short on spectacle: more blood, gore, woad and fire, please. More wuffing and puffing, And less of Pat Whymark's music (though beautifully sung); which crosses the Anglo-Saxon bards with Joan Baez. Now that's an unfortunate hybrid, even for a potting shed. To 27 July. Box office: 01473 211498

For those in peril by the sea

iana Burrell has made no secret OPERA The Albatross of her love for the windswept Spitalfields Market Op East Anglian fenland of her childhood, and her music has frequently evoked its wind, sea and sky. For her first opera, she chose Susan Hill's novel The Albatross, which tells how a disturbed and lonely outsider in a closeknit fishing community is eventually driven to murder. Shades of Peter Grimes are made more ominous by Hill's own close association with Britten.

As its belated premiere on Thursday made clear, however, Burrell's Albetross successfully steers clear of Britten's influence to conjure up an independent world. The opera was actually composed and helper, who drowns in a lifeboat between 1984 and 1986, and is now accident - is, like the two Duncans, a receiving its first performances thanks tenor; even given a performance with to Trinity College of Music. It shows a command not only of atmosphere but also of the more clusive operatic arts.

Spitalfields Market Opera

The opera's two acts are presented in Stepben Langridge's imaginative production, with designs by Kyung-Hee Lee, via a cunningly adaptable hasic set, well in by Paul Russell. Though neither libretto nor score suggests this. Duncan, the retarded anti-hero, is played by two singers: one grimly real. the other representing his inner aspirations. Though initially disconcerting, this sometimes worked to great effect. as well as practical advantage.

Ted, the fisherman - Duncan's hero more gravitas than that managed bere, this would seem a mistake. The vocal lines for Hilda, his vindictive, wheel-

chair-bound mother, are peppered with hysterical high notes, making the words inaudible and the audience sometimes laugh. But Burrell's music, like Langridge's production, is generally highly economical, scoring most strongly when she gives free rein to her imagination to conjure mood or

enliven character with a single gesture. There are marvellous orchestral moments suggesting, if comparisons must be made, the fantasy of Tippett or the gloomy textural undertows of Penderecki. And while the opening stages of Act 2, beginning with an interminable bassoon solo, betray the composer's lack of operatic experience. both the ensuing scene of Ted's funeral - complete with hymn-tune cleverly overlaid by action and reaction - and the concluding murder are handled with real flair and sophistication.

The Trinity singers and orchestra. under the secure guidance of Christopher Fifield, cope very well with Burrell's demands. Amid a predominantly male line-up. I must single out James Geer and Stephen Brown as the two Duncans, Amanda Palmer as the mother, Julian Smith as Ted and Stephen Bowen as one of the other fishermen. As though this wasn't sufficient, the college precedes The Albatross with a very decent attempt on Vaughan Williams's rather uninspiring Riders to the Sea, a further study in the lethal effect of the elements on a small community, again resourcefully directed by Langridge. A long but

worthwhile evening.
7.30pm tonight, Spitalfields Market Opera, 4!5 Lamb Street, London E1. Booking: 0171-377 1362

Keith Potter

n the words of the popular song, "It am't what you do!

It's the way that you do it."

MUSICAL Assassins New End Theatre, Lo Last year, the musical The Fields of Ambrosia ("Where everyone knows ya...") opened to frankly hidenus reviews. Part of the problem was the story, that of a travelling executioner who drove around with an electric chair in the back of his van. More than one critic took exception to its "frying tonight" tone, shooting thousands of volts through someone while singing about it. Yet the same thing happens in Assassins and I don't recall anyone taking umbrage when it was premiered at the Donmar Warehouse.

This 1990 show by Stephen Sondheim with a book by John Weidman is a musical of murderous intent. Part vaudeville, part history, it is a witty chronicle of the successful and failed attempts to assassinate Presidents of the United States. From John Wilkes Booth shooting Abraham Lincoln to John Hinckley, who tried to despatch Ronald Reagan in a bizarre effort to attract the attention of Jodie Foster, its darkly theatrical examination of character and warped American values would be "Squeaky" Fromme sing the startling in a play. In a musical, pop duet "Unworthy of Your

New End Theatre, London

it should be extraordinary. The original production of Assassins used a band of just three and that's what you get here. When it comes to casting Sondheim shows, debate continues to rage over whether to cast actors who sing or singers who act. Director Sam Buntrock wisely sides with the latter, which makes life easier for musical director Caroline Humphris, who has done exemplary work with a nice American gothic-style the cast, many of whom have set but lighting each of the fine voices.

Paul Keating, who shot to fame playing the lead role in Tommy, plays the Balladeer, who slips through the show as guide and witness to the events unfolding. It's an excellent performance, entirely focused and wonderfully relaxed with none of the mannerisms affected by many young away. And no one acts like singers in musicals. Peter Straker has a ringing pompos-ity as Charles Guiteau, who sings a cakewalk to the gallows after shooting Garfield twice in the back. Andrew Newey as Hinckley and Fiona Dunn as the Charles Manson disciple

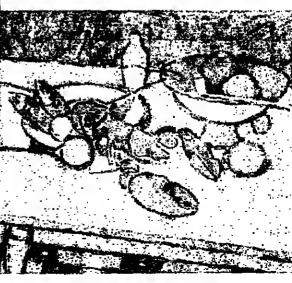
Love" (with its deliciously cheesy tune and creepy lyrics) with terrific sincerity and

strength. All of this goes some way 10wards redeeming the poorly directed non-musical scenes. It's clear that Buntrock loves the piece but it needs a much firmer hand to punctuate and shape it. Too many dialogue scenes merely run their course, the stranded cast resorting to over-emoting when more truth is what's needed. The designer Tim Wilson has come up with presidents' portraits pulls

focus away from the action. One detail serves to distil the problems. It's crucial that we believe the guns that each of the characters hold are real. If you can't fire blanks, the sound effects have to be firstrate. Here they're muffled and the sense of danger drains these things kill; it's as if they're holding waterpistols. Nevertheless, the musical structure is so strong that the show's virtues still shine brightly. If not a palpable hit, then a near miss. To 3 Aug (0171-794 0022)

David Benedict

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Obtuse Angles: Wuffing sword play (above)

Confused by the last daze of the Raj

Blunders all round marked the end of British rule, says Sunil Khilnani

August 1947 is one of the most intricate. accelerated and decisive passages in 20th-century history. It is not at all easy to explain why events unfolded as they did.

British historians have told it as a story of upright leadership which bequeathed to the elites of Pakistan and India smoothly functioning tropical Westminsters. Historians on the subcontinent have celebrated their own starched heroes - Jionah, Gandhi, Nehru and Patel - fighting epic struggles against the British or their opponents. From each point of view, it goes without saying that the protagonists knew exactly what they were doing.

The most welcome message of Patrick French's energetic book is that most of the actors, most of the time, did not. Motives were fluid, outcomes conungent. During the Thirties and Forties, the politics of the Indian empire was awash with questions: when would the British leave, to whom would they hand over power, would free Indians live together in a single state, and would it be federal or confederal, religious or secular? Yet by the end of the Forties the uncertainties had crystallised setting a pattern for the subcontinent's future in ways that no one had quite expected or wanted. Even Jinoah did not want a sovereign. independent Pakistan.

French is right to try to integrate the histories of Partition and Independence, rather than seeing them as somehow inconveniently related (as most Indians would like to believe). He wades intrepidly - and sometimes with alarming insouciance - into a minefield of controversy, determined to produce "a radical reinterpretation". That, it has to be said, is not quite delivered.

Until recently, histories of this period have been written on the basis of a quite narrow range of sources (mainly state archives, often carefully doctored). French does offer something new here, making use of declassified British intelligence documents. But he relies mainly on that trusted warhorse of all who write about this period: the 12-volume Transfer of Power documents. He has not explored Indian or Pakistani sources, apart from some interviews which try to evoke the consequences of Partition. The result is a very much a British view of the story, albeit a self-critical one.

French uses the archives of the Indian Political Intelligence - a shadowy operation run from Whitehall by Philip Vickery, who in Freech's view did "as much as any single person to prolong British rule in India" - to reveal an administration rapidly losing its grip as well as its will to rule. Accelerated by the pressures of war, the crumbling of the formidable apparatus of the Raj was apparent by the Forties.

The quarter-century leading up to the Partition and Independence of India in and division and division by Patrick French, HarperCollins, £20

It helped to make the Quit India agitation of 1942 possible, after which the Briosh were merely in nominal control of large areas.

Administrative fatigue was matched by monumental stupidity on the part of the British leadership. The appointment in 1936 of the pig-headed – and pig-sticking – Linlithgow as viceroy was one instance of this. But what ensured that the British withdrawal from India would be messy and riddled with confusion was the personality of Winston Churchill.

French makes clear not only the man's ohnoxious higotry but also his peerless ignorance of, and inepotude over, the "Indian question". On the other hand, it is good to see French restore Wavell to his rightful historical place. Wavell's brief viceroyalty has been overshadowed by the spectacular antics of his successor, but it was crucial in establishing the template largely followed by Mounthatten.

French moves his story along fluently, though the historical narrative is punctuated by anecdotal passages that record his own subconfinental wanderings. These encourage him to exercise a penchant for Indian absurdities (mispronunciation, misspellings, etc) which become arch and wearisome. For a would-he revisionist, French also has a worrying tendency to neglect argument in favour of ad hominem siahs and droll character cameos. Perhaps he tried too hard to please his publishers.

On more serious ground, his judgements are often persuasive. He rightly insists that "the potential for a complete administrative collapse in India in the late Forties should not be forgorien". Far from inheriting modern polities gleaming with liberal polish, the Iodian and Pakistani élites took command of faltering, truncated states. That it was possible - at least in India - to pull this legacy round to a strong, democratic and secular union was a measure of the achievement of men such as Nehru, not a residue of the Raj's splendour.

The one act of the Raj that could not be undone was Partition. Ruoning through this hook is a powerful sense of Partition's continuing effects, and regret at its destruction of many of India's cultures and habits. Partition weakened all communities, and delivered few henefits to them. It implanted confusion into Muslim ideas of selfhood, was catastrophic for the Sikhs (who don't much figure in French's story) and has eocouraged Hindus to dream of an ethnically pure "Bharatavarsha". It survives as an always available memory, around which the dissatisfactions of modern politics on the subcontineot can periodically, and murderously, coalesce.



A Rajput version of Kali (c 1660) from 'Indian Miniatures and Paintings: the collection of Howard Hodgkin' (Electa)

Keeping up appearances

Paul Barker celebrates a dandy who wrote the best essays since Orwell

reason. "dandy" is a word by Angela Carter, Chatto & Windus, £25 Sreason. "dandy" is a word used only of men; but Angela Carter was a dandy. In this Aladdin's cave collection of her essays and reviews, she writes of visiting her Giles-like Yorkshire grandmother "in all the atrocious sartorial splendour of the under-ground high-style of the late Fifties. black mesh stockings, spike-heeled shoes, hum-hugging skirt, jacket with a black fox collar." She loved the Sixties ("truly it felt like Year One"), when she was in her twenries; but the pattern of her life and her style was fixed well before that.

Some of her best, wittiest writing is here. Nothing overtakes her finest fiction (The Magic Toyshop

and The Bloody Chamber, espe- described as "mucky pastoral". cially). But many of her essays are otherwise unheatable. The dandy knows the deep importance of surface show. He (or she) knows that a joke can penetrate where acres of analysis fail. Dandyism also implies stoicism. In her introduction, Joan Smith notes that Angela Carter "never indulges in self-pity". Writ-ing about her adolescent illnesses (she starved herself into stylish thinness), Angela Carter says that such troubles should he horne

Diana Dors is the "personification of the buxom hackside of the other Britain". Poor DH Lawrence is demolished by her gleeful perception of what his fixation on female clothing, in Women in Love, meant sexually: "The stocking covers a

hairy, muscular leg." This was written in 1975, when Lawrence was still, for his many fans, a hero with clayless feet. As this selection confirms. the Seventies were her great decade for such fierce, jewel-like writing. For many "stoically. That is, lightly." fierce, jewel-like writing. For many paces". (Hence her uneasy relationship with feminist conformists. Scape of South Yorkshire is known for her journalism than for She called Marilyn French's The

her novels. She was precipitated into fame (and Who's Who) by the 1984 film of The Company of Wolves -which delighted her. The cinema, another art of surface appearances, was one of her greatest loves. She gives a tender account of going to the Granada. Tooting, with her father. She pays homage - almost heroine-worship - to Louise

Brooks, another female dandy.

Most of this writing first appeared in New Society. The magazine published 88 out of these 148 pieces. She became part of its characteristic tone. She could, as Joan Smith says, "detect bullshir at 200 paces". (Hence her uneasy rela-



Angela Carter: 'dandy'

Women's Room "an instruction manual for the older woman postgraduate student.")

The New Society association began when, in 1966, I read and

out of the blue; I was enchanted by her writing. The tie was sealed by ber astonishing essay, "Notes For a Theory of Sixties Style," with its very Carterish opening, still alive and kicking 30 years later: "Velvet is hack, skin aoti-skin, mimic

This collection brings together, for the first time, all her extraordinary articles about Japan, to which she went in 1969 - ahandoning her first husband on the proceeds of the Somerset Maugham award she won for her third novel. (The money didn't go far enough. She worked for a while in a bar in the Ginza district of Tokyo, where "a hostess can hardly call her breasts her own".) It is hard to realise, today, what an

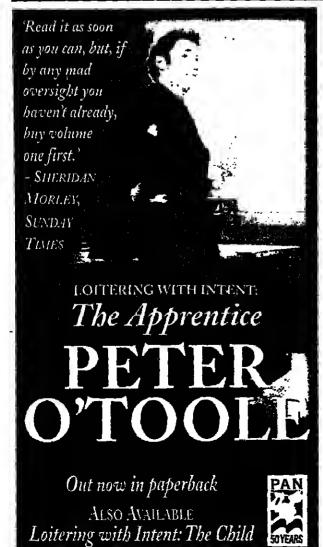
unknown country Japan was then. She sent back iridiscent reports on the country's "trim dementia". most memorahly on its sadistic comics. (Sadism, to her, was a kind of dandyism of sex.) "What is published an article (collected actually going on in these pictures

here) that she mailed to the office often looks rather odd to me because I cannot read Japanese. When a translation is provided, it usually turns out to be worse than I could have imagined. Why isn't this girl fighting back during a gang rape? Because they forethoughtfully dislocated her limbs, first." In the same essay, she formulated the Machiavellian rule that all women suffer "unless they are very wicked * indeed; when they obey the Sadeian

law and live happily ever after".

In her grandmother's house - to which she went as a child to escape wartime bombing - she tells us that the few books included Machiavelli and several copies of Fox's Book of Martyrs, with its gruesome illustrations. You do wonder.

She turned the same sharp but friendly eye on England and its "more than Asiatic patience". She was a natural-horn iconoclast. "Alienated," she wrote, "is the only way to he, after all." Shaking a Leg contains some of the best essays since Orwell.



Elegies at ebb tide from St Lucia

Bounty. he turns away from Homer as the poems awake increasingly internal echoes. Finely, quictly crafted, this collection threads images like beads on a necklace. Its quest is the "awe of the ordinary" - a very Walcottian phrase, with its pun and its paradox, marrying the mundane to the magical. It regularly strikes home: a St Lucian woman sings with a "voice like rain on a hot road". Walcott's work has a signature, recognisable from just a phrase, like that of a great composer.

This slim volume is deceptive. Like Dr Who's Tardis, its modest exterior hides immensities. It deploys again the long lines of Dante's terza rima, as in Omeros. and sonnet-like poems, as io Midsummer. These metres enable Walcott to breathe deeply in unhurried lines. You can never guess what a poem will open out into. As one puts it, at the end of each sentence there is a grave/or the sky's blue door".

The Bounty moves easily around the world, in and out of cultures and histories in a way we have come to expect of Walcott: hut above all it slips us into feelings like a glove. Coming home 10 the Caribbean, for instance, prompts the recognition of "shape/and shadow so familiar, so worn like the handles of brooms/in old women's hands.

Many of these are haunted poems. The dead tread their pages lightly, alive again. Walcori's mother is commemorated in the title poem. Others recall the lengthening

Derek Walcort's epic poem Omeros and his verse play The Odyssey are hard acts to follow. With The a Nobel laureate's songs at twilight

The Bounty by Derek Walcott Faber & Faber, £7.99



small creatures can have "no calendar except for this bountiful day"

Walcom starts from Dante's hymn to the Virgin-Mother, with which the Puradiso ends. The bounty is also nature's. But this is Captain Bligh's Bounty, too. hringing breadfruit seedlings like manna to feed Caribbean slaves. Walcott embroiders ideas: food: the palm-shaped leaf: the necessary mutiny of Mr Christian; his mother's devout faith; mad John Clare

heroism of the black people's story. Languages, too, have histories of loss and survival. He watches St Lucia's particular patois fade, a loss to which his own work in English contributes. But these poems hum with an elegiac sadness as the ground-hass of joy. Walcott is unsurpassed at sounding both notes at once:

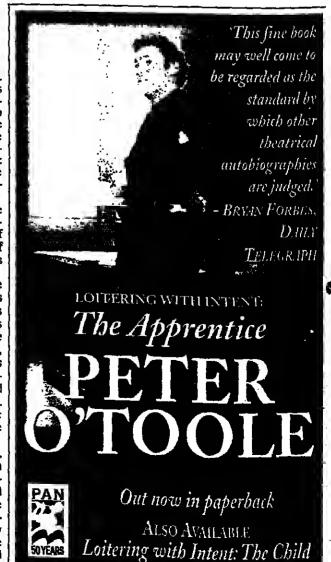
Great bursts of exaltation crest the white hreaker, /deep-drawn as the sigh-

ing shale, as the heart's salt history".

There are no fireworks here. The tone is somhre, veined with a sparkle like granite. And these are very wet poems, full of weather and tears, but also the "bliss" of streams and the fertile damp of Clare's East Anglian fens.

Walcon's familiar confessional voice now says calmly that "the only art left is the preparation of grace". His faith is less orthodox, more tested, but he remains convinced that "the soul's Australia is like the New Testament/ after the Old World, the code of an eye for an eye". Few poets can meld metaphysical, moral and political registers with such compressed energy. These are also lonely poems, echoing Oedipus and Timon, invoking the defiant castaway: "All I require is an acre of sunlight and a salt wind.

Occasionally the tone is strained. seduced by its own sonority. Though demanding, the poems share their hounties hest when their music is most stripped and simple. They may not appeal to the impatient. They may not appeal particularly to the young. But for those who know what loss is - and, as he reminds us, there list of lost friends, "nothing short of a massacre". In consequence, the aged and ism of the ants' collective effort; and the a slow, rich juice from its presses. is no loss without love - the book will yield



DING WEEKER

Some old fruits and a nutcase

Richard Davenport-Hines backs party people against the puritans

Wilde's Last Stand: decadence, conspiracy and the First World War by Philip Hoare, Duckworth, £16.95

here are episodes in history which, though ephemeral in themselves, illuminate with almost pictorial vividness the society in which they happened Philip Hoare has discovered one such episode

– a sensational libel action of 1918 – which he has coloured into a bright panorama of early-20th-century British social life. Hoare traces the connections joining the Naughty Nineties to the Jazz Age of the Twenties. He makes a captivating medley of avant-garde art, night-club life, drugs, "negro bands", polymorphous sex, right-wing nutters and the prurience of all who set themselves up as public moralists.

Hoare's central figure is Noel Pemberton-Billing, a restless and belligerent aviation pioneer who was elected to the Commons in 1916 as an independent MP. In one of several superb photographs, Billing is shown campaigning in a by-election, spruce and melodramatic in the cockpit of a fighter, gesturing at the loungers in the Mile End Road like Oswald Mosley

Oswald Mosley.

Pemberton-Billing was a demagogic proto-Fascist who ran xenophobic newspapers called The Imperialist and Vigilante. In 1918 he turned from his usual denunciations of "Jew boys" and Huns to announce the existence of a conspiracy by the German Empire to sap the British war effort. He claimed that the German secret service had a list of 47,000 British perverts -"Privy councillors, wives of cabinet ministers, even cabinet ministers themselves, diplomats,

poets, bankers, editors, newspaper proprietors" who were "prevented from putting their full strength into the war by corruption and blacking." and were emasculating the fighting men with their seductive wiles. His allegations were luridly misogynistic: "in Lesbian ecstasy the most sacred secrets of State were betrayed".

Billing attacked the performance by a dancer named Maud Allan of Oscar Wilde's Salome in an article headlined. The Cult of the Clitoris". When Allan sued for libel, Billing defended himself, and used the courtroom for a series of highly publicised stunts to embarrass the wartime government. He relied on dubious witnesses including his mis-Eileen

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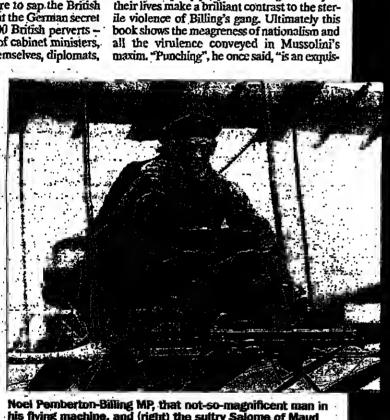
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afterwards convicted of bigamy), a lunatic psychiatrist called Serrell Cooke and a vindictive young man named Harold Spencer, recently invalided out of the British Secret Service after obviously mad claims of almighty German con-

Together they subjected their imaginary perverts, from the former prime minister Asquith and his wife onwards, to a campaign of wild innuendo calculated to cause as much political disruption as possible. It is doubtful whether the sexology was widely understood. As a bewildered Lord Albemarie asked his Turf Club cromes, "who is this Greek chap Clitoris they're all talking about?" Confronted with the inflammatory techniques of the political and sexual witch-hunt, the judge lost control of the case and the jury found for Billing.

Billing's premeditated histrionics, the farfetched perjuries of his witnesses, the scurrility and paranois are enthralling. But the excitements in the Central Criminal Court do not provide the only compelling passages in Wilde's Last Stand. Billing's stunts were yet another bout in the perpetual struggle between English decadents and the puritan philistinism of John Bull. In Hoare's treatment, the joie de vivre of the party people and the generosity of their lives make a brilliant contrast to the ster-



his flying machine, and (right) the sultry Salome of Maud Allan, alloged high priestess of the 'Cuit of the Clitoris'





INDEPENDENT CHOICE



FOODIE FICTION by Chris Savage King

centred on the theme uf food reflect the way that the British have taken to gastronomy in recent years. Stylistically, they vary from wacky comedy to historical pastiche. Laurie Graham's delectably titled Perfect Meringues (Black Swan, £6,99) concerns the fortunes of TV cook Lizzie. As a 40-something minor celebrity, she should have it all. Instead, she tails men in supermarkets and makes dodgy assignations with unpromising types called Bernard. She is hounded by her loquacious mother, and the rambling rhythms of the uld woman's thought patterns are captured heautifully: They said that your dad shouldn't keep syringing his ears, but they didn't have to live with him." Lizzic also has to cope with a sulky teenage daughter, "jacking off gorm-less Gavin while they're supposed to be revising". In the

that Midlands fans are not yet ready for lumpfish caviar. A typical modern woman, she has a gay man - astrologer a genuine Gothic work. Its Louie - for her hest friend. He tone and emphasis owe much der culinary gifts: "I made a mille-feuille of plums and pears, warmed it through in his that the touch is lighter. Conoven, dusted it with icing sugar and served it with very cold

meantime, she rues the fact

Jersey cream. Laurie Graham's choppy narrative has the feel of a bastily scrawled diary, complete with Must-Do lists -Clear leaves out of guiter. Rahbit? Be a better mixer. Move settec". Her cnmic touch is sure and psychologi-cally accurate. In the dreaded Tonya, a dating-agency doyenne, Graham has created a truly memorable character. And her ear for media-speak is clear: "keep it simple, keep it nice, keep it badminton and Andrew Lloyd Wehher". Her flippant wit at the expense of contemporary foibles is cuiting, while retaining a breezy good nature. If Victoria Wood wrote a novel, it might read something like this.

Fermentation by Angeline Jacob (Bloomshury, £5.99) is quite different confection ~ higher-toned, a kind of gastroporn, very French in flavour. The heroine becomes preg-nant and develops insatiable cravings for cheese. Chapter headings take the names of cheeses, with lush descriptions of each. This is a slightly precious, but reasonable pretext for the heroine's dive into the realm of the senses, where erotic dreams and reality inter-

How you take the sex scenes will depend on how you feel

erop of new novels about suh-dom fantasies with lashings of cuts and hurns. But these are delicately enumerated, shielded in existential angst, showing the senseof-humour bypass endemic to most effective pornography.

A highly poetic narrator, Angeline Jacob (a pseudonym) is guud at extended metaphors that meld the cheeses with descriptions of the woman's pregnant body. Pregnancy, sensuality and sex are usually seen - antiseptically - as completely separate entities. The way the author has managed to blend all three is an impressive achievement.

David Madson's Confessions of a Flesh Enter (Deda-lus, £7.99) concerns cannibalism and parricide. It might be said to be the most in-yourface selection here, and is also the intellectual beavyweight. Orlando Crispe, a chef convinced of his own genius, writes his memoirs from jail, accused of the murder of Arturo Trogville - ace-rival and deadly restaurant critic.

Set in the present, the tale has all the grim foreboding of to James Hoge 5 Conjessions of fessions also helpfully includes actual recipes. Madsen has a thirst for elever-elever cross referencing, and there are enough operatic and literary names dropped to keep swots happy fur bours. The knowing asides to "Herr Doktor Jung" and "retrojective significance" get tiresome, yet once David Madsen (another pseudonym) gets into his stride, his descriptive skills flourish.

Fans of hody harror will find mure visceral lusciousness here than in most synthetic US nastics. One of Crispe's talents is the ability to call up synaesthesia: the mixture of sense impressions. I liked the comparison of beef to hrass in music and tu "the sexual potency of young men hefore it had been squandcred". Orlando Crispe's gusto for

copulating with carcasses retrieved from his restaurant's cold store, then serving them: is only rivalled by his heartfett loathing for female flesh itself. Women are more fondly regarded by the chef as mari-nades for his masterpieces,

Fermentation, hy the way, is the only one of this batch that left me with a real appetite for food. Still, these sybaritic-tending novels are more colourful and lively on the palate than the hald realism that has become a staple in fiction recently. Salut to all that, and bon appétit.

The blacker they are, the harder they fall

John Sutherland on ringside racism, Regency style

A African-American heavy-weight boxer is dying. Once the Greatest", he has taken broken-down and broke, an empty husk of the supreme athlete who once floated like a butterfly and

stung like a hee, the dark destroyer. Who is it: Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, Ezzard Charles, Sonny Liston, Muhammad Ali or Iron Mike Tyson, 10 years after his last judge-ment day with Evander Holyfield? No, it is Tom Molineaux, the "Black Ajax", the American ex-slave and "uppity nigger" who came from America in 1811 to challenge the nonpareil champion of all-England, the darling of the Regency bucks. Tom Cribb, to two bare-knuckle

George MacDonald Fraser has set himself a tricky problem as a historical novelist. Anyone who knows the history of boxing knows that Molineaux did not pull it off. He was thrashed in a gruelling 34rounder. (Rounds were marked by one of the contestants being put on the ground. The contest went on until one fighter failed to "come up to scratch", a line drawn in the mid-

NEW AUTHORS

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Black Ajax by George MacDonald Fraser, HarperCollins, £16.99

tators (a quarter of whom were the stronger and cleverer fighter, "nobility"), Cribb disposed of should have won, but threw it away. Molineaux in a mere 20 minutes.

The American died four years later of dissipation and disappointment. How can the novelist create any suspense out of these historical facts? Praser does not try. Before hecoming a novelist relatively late in life, with Flashman, he was a journalist on the Glasgow Herald. Fraser poses Black Ajax as a journalistic investigation. The novel takes the form of 16 eye-witness "reports". Some are from fictional characters such as Molineaux's mulatto lover, Mollybird"). Others are literary -William Hazlitt and Pierce Egan, notably. Still others - such as the Prince Regent himself - are historical voices. As always, Fraser's command of period slang is wonderfully convincing (and, as a glossary indicates, scrupulously researched).

For devoted Fraserians a particular interest attaches to the testimony of Buckley ("Mad Buck") Flashman, Flashie's father. Molineaux's downfall is precipitated by his offending this wicked old man, who has all his son's vices without the

self-mockery. The unknown reporter's investigation establishes that Molineaux in fact won the first contest and Cribb was saved (like Gene Tunney against Dempsey) by a dishonest "long count". The chronicles I have looked at record that the Bristol hattler won it fair and square, both times. More persuasively, Fraser's reporter narrates how, like thany black athletes since, Molineaux was spoiled by early success. He runs his

the one-way ticket to Palookaville: dle of the "ring" of spectators). In condition with drink, doxies and the broken-down and broke, an empty a rematch in front of 20,000 spec-flattery of hangers-on. Molineaux,

This relates to the most interesting feature of Black Ajax: its analysis of the complex relationship between white spectators and black athletes. Molineaux's worldly-wise black trainer enlightens his fighter as to the treacherousness of his English fans: They love their fight game, and they invenieu is, and think they own it! You think they'll attmire to see a sassy loudmouth nig-ger take it away from them ...? A black man, Champion of England?"

Black Ajax ventures into that currently most undiscussable of topics. hlack-white race relations. Not surprisingly (although it seems to have surprised Fraser) a plan to dramatise the novel for the American screen fell through; the subject was too sensitive. Fraser's Molineaux is not a comforting black athlete (like, for example, our beloved Frank Bruno) but, as his trainer says, a sassy, loudmouth nigger: a predecessor of Ali and Dennis Rodman, the in-your-face hlack basketball player with the violently dyed hair and the off-court habit (when not dating Madonna) of wearing

In their hearts, white spectators do not like to see rebellious black athletes win, and crave their comeappance - think of the glee with which sections of the press reported Linford Christie's humiliation in Atlanta Like everything Fraser writes, Black Ajax is addictively readable. But it is also the first of bis novels that can be termed genuinely disturbing.

PAPERBACKS -

by Christopher Hirst

Desert Places by Robyn Davidson (Penguin, £7.99) This personal account of a trek with rajas and nomads infects you with wanderfust and provides a hitter antidote. Within a page, Davidson can be both brilliant (the hindrances of Indian life are "like reading Tristram Shandy") and rather silly - "cultures which touch their own faeces have a greater understanding of ... our alpha and omega".

Rogue Trader by Nick Leeson (Warner, £5.99) In this heavily ghosted memoir, Leeson reveals why he was keen to avoid incarceration in Singapore. He had been in a Singapore nick before, arrested for mooning. He switches than one page.

hetween family knees-ups and muck sweat at the looming black hole: "Since February I'd absorbed (ie "loss") £300m of funding."

Hilaire Belloc by AN Wilson (Mandarin, £9.99) Wilson offers a sprightly life of the prolific author. Like most radical satirists, Belloc ended up as a crusty right-winger. Noisy and amusing he held that civilisation depended on property-owning Catholicism. Equally eccentric was his technique with champagne corks: "Cut off tlush with the bottle. Then pull out as an ordinary cork." Oddly, Belloc's Cautionan Tales, his only work still read, is allocated less

A FEAST OF SUMMER READING **NEW STORIES AND POEMS FROM** TODAY'S BRIGHTEST LITERARY TALENTS ALAIN DE BUTTON JOEN UPDIKE ON THE BOOKS IN HIS LIFE ON LEAVING YOUR LOVER JEANE BE WINTERSON'S WILLIAM BOYD IN FRANCE SIMON ARMITAGE JIM CRACE. KATE CLANCHY R.L. - CANDIA MCWILLIAM. BLAKE MORRISON AFOREW MOTION BHARATI MUKHERIEE TULLE MYERSON ALICE OSWALD MARINA WARNER HUCO WILIJAMS TOMORROW'S SUNDAY RE



From arks to arson via

Sally Williams meets a swimming teddy and an arty octopus among the latest treats for the under-fives



goes to the

turbulent

heart of early

childhood in

this vivid

story of a

frustrated

harlie the Chicken: a pop up book by Nick Denchfield and Ant Parker (Macmillan, £5.99) The pop-ups in this story of a little chicken with a big appetite are so vast, Denchfield gets a "paper engineer" as well as writer's credit. Huge fold-away fect and beak to touch will amuse the very young. And there are missing words to guess: "Charlie the Chicken eats lots of barley. That's why he has such a big fat ..." Tummy, of course.

Find and Fit Jungle by Emily Bolam (Campbell Books, £3.99) Young jigsaw-entbusiasts will enjoy this puzzle-cum-book. Pull out the figures of jungle animals and fit them into the pages as you read. Interactive and engaging, it's great for those who like to keep things ship-shape. But, take note, finding the lost cut-outs is a lot less fun then fitting them.

The Blrd by Nicholas Allan (Hutchinson, £6.99) Another offbeat look at a classic story from the man who wrote Jesus's Christmas Party, an account of the Nativity from the viewpoint of the innkeeper. In this book a bird, who turns out to be the dove of peace, befriends a hermit and brings some friends hack to his once solitary island: Noah and an ark-load of animals. Pocket-sized, with simple line drawings and Fay Weldon

hack to his once solitary island: Noah and an ark-load of animals. Pocket-sized, with simple line drawings and water-colours, this is a funny and memorable book which blasts new energy into the Old Testament tale.

Nothing but Trouble by Gus Clarke (Andersen Press, £8.90) Young schoolchildren will find this story of Maisie's bad day very, very gratifying. Her haby hrother wakes her up with a jab in the eye; she gets toothpaste on her cardigan; loathsome Dean splatters her with paint at school: a dog eats her ice-cream; and after she finds a caterpillar on her fork at teatime, the television breaks. Never mind. Tomorrow will be better. And it is. Almost, Surely, Mum will spot that Maisie has tucked her skirt into her knickers. Won't she?

Teddy's Busy Day by Lone Morton (Tango, £8.99) The pages of this book are like two-dimensional mini theatre sets. The protagonist, Teddy, a cut-out figure attached by a red ribbon, appears in each scene by being placed between the page and a clear plastic overlay. Dress him up as a clown at playgroup, take him swimming, and put him in the shower. Great for hand-eye co-ordination and reluctant readers.

Katie's Special Tooth by Dec Shulman (Oxford University Press. £8.99) All of Katie's friends have lost some teeth. All except Katie. Gemma and Emily have discussions about the tooth fairy and laugh gappy laughs when Katie is around. If it weren't pointed out that the writer had gone "into the field" to research this story, you could tell. The gloating is so merciless it could only be based on real children. Ditto the dialogue. "Do you think there are boy tooth fairies?" asks one boy "Course!", his friend replies. "Mine looks like Batman." This well-observed tale captures the competitive playground world.

One Bear, One Dog by Paul Strickland (Ragged Bears, £7.99) On each page in simple rhyme a new animal joins the bear, the dog, the mouse, the frog ... on their way to look at YOU (in the shiny mirror on the last page). The pages are large and lustrous, the images simple and spirited. Great value.

Daisy's Giant Surflower by Emma Damon
(Tango, £8.99) Daisy Bluehorn wants to grow a
sunflower but Marvin Mole. Felix Fox and Polly
Pig have other ideas. Luckily, Dougal Dog finds
the perfect place for a seed to grow. Damon's
writing is intelligent, her illustrations
quirky. Her book comes with a
height chart in the form of a
flower in full bloom.

Katie Morag and the Grand Concert by Mairi Hedderwick (Bodley Head, £9.99) Feuding grannies, a lost brothet, fiddle and pipe tunes, an uncle who says "Right Bobby Dazzling" without irony, homemade parsnip soup and island escapism for fans of wholesome heroine Katie Morag. Even the moments of ugly realism are charming when played against such a rural idyll. Children will like this; parents even more so.

When the Moon Comes Out by Francesca Simon, illustrated by Joanne Kossoff (Macmillan, £8.99) At night, if you didn't already know, zebras swing through trees; snakes dance the samba; koalas eat orange jelly: kangaroos fly kites. And bere, in the most eyecatching of books, are lively, multicoloured portraits of the nocturnal shenanigans.

The Sea Hole by Ross Collins (Macmillan, £8.99) This story has many pluses: the intriguing idea that storms are caused by holes in the sea; an intrepid boy, Ben, sailing off in a tiny boat with his dog, to mend the hole; wonderful caricatures of fishermen; lots of fish and brilliant illustrations. The fact that Collins writes as he paints; with lots of colour and references to fish.

can get a bit heavy going, but this is still gripping stuff.

Fluffy Chick by Rod Campbell (Campbell Books, £3.99) Rod Campbell gave up a career in science to pursue an interest in drawing furry animals. And his name is now a byword for ordered and precise design. Touch-and-feel with Fluffy Chick ("feel the pig's hairy

ear", "feel the cow's rough tongue") has the same clear-cut appeal that has made his 100-plus "interactive" books so buyable.

Flora's McDonnell's ABC (Walker Books, £10.99) A big, bright alphabet book full of startlingly beautiful images: a pin-sized ladybird on a huge yellow lemon; a speeding, Fifties pink Cadillac: a yak playing yo-yo. More appealing than a centrefold from the River Café Cook Book, this makes learning ABC a real treat.

Master Track's Train by Allan Ahlberg and Andre Amstatz (Puffin, £3.50) A lost child, a train full of stolen goods – this latest in the Happy Families series has all the ingredients that have made the other "miniature masterpieces" so much fun: feisty, off-the-wall individuals, a brisk plot, jaunty illustrations.

Goldfish Hide and Seek by Satosbi Kitamura (Andersen Press, £8.99) More nutty nonsense: a goldfish loses a playmate, but discovers a frog that sculpts: a fish doctor, two turtles playing chess; a hungry cat, and a love of dancing. The story is full of surprises and the characters, especially Mr Octopus the angst-ridden artist ("I see nothing but my art"), are joyfully eccentric. Crisp illustrations and an eye for the absurd: yet another wonderfully senseless book from Kitamura.

Nobody Likes Me by Fay Weldon (Bodley Head, £9.99) Weldon's first hook for children goes straight to the turbulent beart of early childhood in this vivid story of a small boy fighting to be noticed. From the opening outburst (when Rex rips up an invitation),

parents will feel at home. The writing is full of colour. Rex's sleep is "brown and red and purple at the edges opening into patches". (Which is more than can be said for the moody but insipid illustrations.) This is a passionate and intense story that brilliantly takes us inside the mind of a troubled little boy.

Nerds come top in new teen novels. Nicholas Tucker applauds the anoraks

comparatively recent Darwinian shift from brute strength to high IQ as the best means for male survival in a hi-tech world is now also acknowledged in teenage fiction. Nerdy, puny dorks today currently often have the last fictional langh on their playground tormentors and sometimes end up with the best girls as well, Jerry Spinelli's Crasb (Orchard, £9.99) describes this particular situation from the bemused vantage point of a violent, fast-food consuming school football star who is finally bested by his vegetarian, turtle-loving, pacifist contemporary Penn Webb, After years of offering blows, insults and threats, the eponymous "Crash" Coogan finally realises that conservation causes and gentleness may seem more attractive to some than persistent success on the football pitch and swaggering bravado afterwards. There is no overt preaching in this bright narrative; the American author gets his point across with good humour and deft skill at imitating teenage speech styles.

Greg Paulsen also celebrates the relentless rise of the geek in The Schernoff Discoveries (Macmillan paperback, £3.99). His cerebral hero Harold diresses like a 30-year-old accountant, with "enough ballpoints in his shirt pocket to supply an entire classroom and glasses so thick that when he turned to look straight at you it seemed that his eyes exploded". There is an autobiographical flavour to this loosely connected story, where Harold researches how to attract girls, earn enough money in a weekend to buy a car, and thwart the standard, pea-brained playground bully. He is usually successful without straining credulity, and this, too, is a lively story, far in atmosphere from the same author's epics about surviving single-handed in the Canadian wilderness

during a savage winter.

Events turn darker in Anthony Masters's Wicked (Orchard, £9.99). This features teenage twin brothers, but the main character is Josh, the younger son who is always at risk of being left out. Something has gone badly wrong: the twins look hag-ridden, and their occasional fights take on a new ferocity. Josh has to find out what is happening, and suspension is stretched almost to breaking-point before the discovery of a genuinely nasty cover-up. The story ends on an unnecessary note of melodrama from an author who is otherwise improving all the time. There is a nightmare quality here that is both gripping and believable. Josh himself finally resolves everything because of his essential goodness — not a quality often described or celebrated in children's books in these more cynical times.

Sharon Creech is an American writer who has lived in Britain since 1979. Chasing Redbird (Macmillan, £9.99) is set in a remote corner of Kentucky specialising in an inbred type of eccentricity sometimes stretching to rank insanity. Thirteen-yearold Zinny, a Cinderella character temporarily

eclipsed by her more beautiful older sisters, discovers an old trail behind her farmhouse. Exploring this entails days away from home on her own, permission for which is granted by her strangely acquiescent parents. Yet all the time she is being shadowed by her ill-used boyfriend, who manages to win ber confidence only in the final chapters. This self-absorbed story drags at times, but may well hind an echo in teenage readers who are at the same stage of adolescent egocentricity.

Carole Lloyd's A Game of Consequence (Dolphin paperback, £3.00) also has a moody teenage girl as heroine. Her entire family moves away from the town . following the unexpected legacy of a cottage in the deep countryside. They are met by smells of silage, some delinquent local teenagers, a house that is terminally falling down and a complete absence of any fairy godmother to put everything right with one touch of a magic wand. In time the parents' marriage goes sour and Rosie takes up with a home-grown thief and tearaway, somebow avoiding an unplanned pregnancy before her lover does a predictable bunk. The last section of this story falls into the same depression shared by Rosie herself, leaving a sad sense of anticlimax. But Carole Lloyd is a good writer, and young readers will surely respect the honesty she brings to describing Rosie's situation and the slow recovery she eventually makes.

George Layton's first book, The Fib, was published

George Layton's first book, The Fib, was published 20 years ago and bas since sold a quarter of a million copies. Its successor, The Swap and Other Stories (Macmillan, £9.99) is just as good, and well worth waiting for. Set in the Fifties, it is written in the rueful school of childhood hard knocks perfected by Bill Naughton, with whom Layton can stand comparison. The 11-year-old hero - known to his formidable charlady mother as "His Lordship" - has a series of mini-adventures where somehow he always

comes off worst. There is the treehouse be falls out of, the Art Prize he should not have won, and the Jewish schoolfriend he cannot quite bring himself to defend against the school bully. All this comes over vividly and without a shred of self-pity. Money is tight but humour is always there. This is a book about childhood as well as for children, and equally successful on both counts.



dorks, yaks and turkeys



Christina Hardyment chooses audiobooks guaranteed to prevent bickering in the back during those long summer car journeys

Kate Greenaway

Medal for illustration

Next Wednesday sees the announcement not only of

the Carnegie award but also of the annual Kate Greenaway Medal.

Named after the successful late-Victorian artist-writer whose

romantic, pre-Raphaelite-influenced

style shaped the look of children's

udio-books can be a painless way of restoring the guts to children's classics oversimplified by Ladybird or graphically distorted by Disney. There is much much more to Carlo Collodi's Pinocchio (Naxos, 2hrs 40mins, £7.99) than a silly wooden puppet with an elastic nose and a moribund Jiminy Cricket. It is a highly dramatic Italian morality tale. funny, sad, occasionally horrific, which is much more relevant than it used to be now. that all parents are permissive and pension plans look more and more like pic in the sky. Anglo-Saxons and warm-hearted Latins alike have to appeal to the inner conscience of their over-indulged children to make them turn from the evil temptations of leisure and buckle down to work, so they can support their indigent pareots in their old age. John Sessions handles a glorious bouquet of contrastingly-accented characters quite

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hrilliantly.

Both films of Dodie Smith's legendary 1956 story of spotted hounds and Cruella de Vil had their merits. But the spoken . word version of 101 Dalmatians (LFP, 2hrs. £7.99) includes several splendid canine characters omitted in the film versions and much more of the author's wryly humorous voice, articulated with finishing-school clarity and perfect pace by Joanna Lumley. This is a timely re-release of a recording made 15 years ago; it would be interesting to see if the post-Ab Fab Lumley would bave bandled it differently.
Gabriel Woolf started by reading

abridged versions of Arthur Ransome's Swallows and Amazons books oo Radio 4's Story Time. He has oow graduated to a true labour of love: recording and marketing his own ahridgements of all 12 of the books on

The risks of receiving loud raspberries from Ransome's intensely loyal fans were great, but Woolf bas exactly the right voice to cope with duffers and pirates alike, and can casually toss off impossible asides such as "jibbooms and bobsays" or "barbecued billygoats" without a hint of self-consciousness. In Pigeon Post (4hrs, £12, including postage and packing, from K Adams, 71 Stepping Stones

Road, Coventry, CV5 8JT; tel 01203 592231), he perfectly captures both Nancy's blunt, headstrong bonesty, and Titty's desperate terror of dowsing.

Kaye Umansky puts a huge amount of witty wellie into her retelling of the impossibly hackneyed and deeply unconvincing story of the Frog Prince. Her The Fwog Pwince (Cavalcade, 1hr 24 mins, £7.99) is perfectly suited to the spoken word, since the story's running joke is the way the ghastly Prince Pipsqueak's gratuitously offensive tooc of voice "cuts into conversations like a hedge-cutter through privet". Comedian Sandi Toksvig is given pleoty of scope to show off all her bounce and ebullience. Whether the Princess Petulant was worth the winning is another matter.

Anne Fine's award-winning The Tulip Touch (Chivers, 3hrs 22mins, £15.95) is a taut little tale of a menacing and sinister little girl called Tulip which slowly but inexorably huilds up to a horrific climax. This unabridged recording, read by Rula Lenska, is definitely not one to choose to soothe the children off to sleep. Try it on a car journey: you won't hear a cheep out of them for three chilling hours or more.

Lighten the mood with giggles over The Lost Diary of Erik Bloodaxe, Viking Warrior (Collins, 90 mins, + phk, £7.99). I'm not normally a fan of the new tabloidstyle nudge-nudge wink-wink history books, but this one is so outrageously punny, even Pratchettesque, that I found myself enjoying it. Read aloud, some of its doggerel verse has an impressive ear for

the lilt of the sagas ("Swordmetal shone/ shields shattered/ Death danced abroad/ On that fell field"), and it is in fact a historically respectable account of the Viking inroads into Europe and Russia.

Lynn Reid Banks has a marvellously true ear for a child's view of the world; in Harry The Poisonous Centipede (HarperCollins, 90mins, £3.99), read, very well indeed, by the author, she also succeeds in putting across the insect's point of view. Just the thing for a child fearful of creepy-crawlies and things that go bump in the night. But, like The Tulip Touch, this is not one for late-night listening, especially if you're anywhere remotely tropical.

What will send them off to sleep soothed and happy are Dick King-Smith's six nicely turned tales of the sturdy little would-be "lady farmer" who is the beroine of Sophie's Snail (Cover to Cover, 55mins, £3.99). Flocks of free-range woodlice and herds of soails are just the beginning; a cow called Blossom, heos called April and May and a Shetland pony are all part of her diminutive dreams. Read with unruffled rural dignity by Bernard Cribbins.

Dignity is not what Lenny Henry aims for and not what cheeky little Charlie, heroine of Charlie and the Big Chill (Gollancz, £9.95) gets in this simple, predominantly pictorial story which is given irresistible funky add-ons as a read/sing/dance-along-with combo. The story, written and read by Henry and exuberantly illustrated by Chris Burke, is read with the full range of special effects on one side; the other is recorded more simply for reading aloud, with page-turn bells, but eods up with a bonus bit of "Charlie's disco music". Short hut sweet.

Poetry is one of the greatest joys of spoken word, and Beojamin "syntax in my dreadlocks" Zephaniah is one of the best living poets writing for children. Funky Turkeys (ABM, approximately 1hr, £6.99) is made up of selections from two of his Peoguin collections: Talking Turkeys and sharp rapping and grooving.

Always look on the dark side of life: doom and gloom in teenage fiction

16 July, the Library Association's annual Carnegie Medal will be awarded to the year's outstanding book. The 1997 shortlist includes stories describing drug-taking (Junk by Melvin Burgess), arson, suspected murder (Anne Fine's The Tulip Tree), and the type of merciless bullying that can sometimes lead to suicide (Michael Coleman's Weirdo's War). Last year's offerings were not that different in subject matter, and some commentaturs are now questioning this inexorable drift towards gloom to children's literature. Things have certainly changed from

the time when even such events as the Second World War were largely ignored in the juvenile books published during that period. But it would be wrong to write off today's new frankness as literary sensationalism, with authors flouting former taboos just for the sake of it. Parental restrictions un what their offspring should both hear and see are increasingly a thing of the past, now that the majority of older children have television sets in their own bedrooms. Modern children know oute a lot new about the worst majority of older children have television sets in their own bedrooms. Modern childreo know quite a lot now about the worst that can happen in the world. It is only natural that they also want to find out more about the ways that different types of persocal or social disaster can sometimes hit the young as well.

It is here that cootemporary teecoage books and comics can fill a significant information gap. Television, for all its outspokenoess, is still unable by its very statutes to describe in any reasonable detail some of the more controversial areas of childhood or children's behaviour. "Flipping Heck!" is the closest that characters in

behaviour. "Flipping Heck!" is the closest that characters in Grange Hill are allowed to get to the obscene language so wearily familiar to public transport users when pupils are travelling between home and school. Recreational drug-taking, of the type that takes place in teenage parties every weekend, would be equally unthinkable as a subject for children's television,

Ignoring such behaviour does not mean that it will go away. Teenagers koow this better than most. That is wby, when asked, they do say they want to know more about Aids, sexual behaviour and different forms of abuse - but not necessarily from embarrassed parents or teachers. Time for the lid-lifting novel or magazine specifically directed at the young, which can be read and reread in the unique privacy of the reading experience.

So anyone who tried to reimpose restrictions on language or subject matter in teenage stories would be attempting to put an increasingly independent cat back into the secrecy of a bag that has long fallen to bits. The dilemma comes when assessing bow old children should be before they are confronted with all the darker truths about human beings. Those many younger children who watch television after the 9pm watershed will know some of these already. Others may not, and parents, teachers and librarians now have some tricky decisions to make with readers aged between nine and 13 who are faced by the no-holds-barred juvenile novel of today.

The German author Gudrun Pausewang, for example, has written one novel describing a horrific nuclear disaster, and another detailing a Jewish girl's terrible journey in a cattle truck to her death in a conceotration camp. Robert Cormier, a hest-selling American novelist, specialises in stories where unsupported, decent child characters are humiliated, beaten up and sometimes killed by bullies, terrorists or psychopaths.

Many would still wish to keep compelling, long-drawn-out descriptions of the death of hope away from pre-teenage readers at an impressionable age. In public libraries, such books are ofteo grouped with adult fiction, though there is no uniformity as yet about the age at which a child should qualify as an adult borrower.

Not all modern books written for teenagers are so controversial, and neither is every prizewinner. Even so, when the Carnegie award is announced, it could be important to listen carefully to what the publishers suggest as the winner's target age-range.

Nicholas Tucker

Illustrations

Clockwise from top right: fish frieze by Joanne Kossoff and Francesca Simon in 'When the Moon Comes Out' (Macmillan); frock horror as Katle Morag catches a glimpse of Agnes - 'she was sitting in the front row, wearing the exact same dress' - in 'Katie Morag and the Grand Concert' by Mairi Hedderwick (Bodley Head); Paul Strickland's bear and his entourage in 'One Bear, One Dog' (Ragged Bears); 'warmth and life pours into all creation' in 'Ishtar and Tammuz' by Christina Balit (Frances Lincoln); fine, beautifully drawn Illustrations of the bird kingdom decorate Helen Ward's modern adaptation of a traditional tala in 'King of the Birds' (Templar Publishing); a dove makes something of an impression on a lonely hermit in 'The Bird' by Nicholas Alian (Hutchinson); A is for ants and aligators in Flora McDonnall's exuberant 'ABC' (Walker Books); two small French children and their wicked dog, Zaza, create mayhem as they wander through town looking for a birthday present. 'Mama'a Perfect Present' by Diane Goode (Andersen Press) is the bilingual



travel&coutdoors

Margate meets the Black Sea



Richard McClure joins the annual parade of beach babushkas at the Crimean resort of Yalta - which has an unlikely British twin

> WHEREVER YOU'RE NKING OF GOING WE'LL

he Crimea is proud of its Chekhov connection, Dying of tuberculosis in the 1890s. the playwright came to live in Yalta at his doctor's insistence. Each of the dachas where he spent his final years has been preserved as a museum and, in spring, the resort holds a week-long festival of parades and plays – choosing to ignore the fact that Chekhov hated the place.

"A hot Siberia ... there is nothing here to interest me," the exile com-plained in letters to Moscow, while, in Nanov, he berated Russian doc-tors for sending their patients south: "As soon as any housewife clears her ibroat, it's our with the scientific prescription - off to the Crimea."
Travelling overland to Yalta a

century later, it's easy to imagine far worse remedies. As soon as the train starts rattling slowly across the sliver of land that attaches the peninsula to southern Ukraine, you can sense the Crimea's therapeutic powers. Drab grasslands give way to fruit trees and fields of tangled vines, then pine-forested mountains that lurch towards the Black Sea, protecting the coastal towns from north winds and delivering a climate closer to that of Cannes than of Kiev.

If Chekhov found the place culturally deficient, then other visitors are happy to settle for these natural attractions. Long before the Communists declared the Crimea a workers' paradise, Pushkin and Tolstoy convalesced along its shores and the tears built opulent summer homes high on the wooded hillsides. There are enough literary dachas and imperial palaces remaining near Yalta to while away many an hour, but the more proleianan pleasures of the town's Lenin Embankment can prove equally distracting.

Part dockyard, part gaudy seafront and part elegant houlevard, the broad promenade is the town's bustling hub, an unlikely meeting of St Petershurg and Margate (with which Yalta is twinned). By midafternoon, a conveyor belt of post-Communist life courses along its length. Holidaying children clamber off dodgems to pose for photographs with manacled monkeys: leatherjacketed mafiosi lounge in restaurants ordering bottles of unbearably sweet Crimean sparkling wine; while stout army officers loiter in Lenin Square with its vast statuc of Vladimir Ilyich looking out to the Black Sea where Bolsheviks once



quayside held the promise of idle imposing sanatorium tucked beneath cruising hut all inquiries were met

with shakes of the bead. "The economy is down," shrugged Arnold, a silver-haired bather I met in the drowsy village of Gurzuf, a few miles along the coast, "Things are very bad right now, No gasoline, so no boats." An ill-judged husiness deal had hrought Arnold, a Musco-vite, to Gurzuf but the climate had persuaded him to stay on and he passed his time keeping trim and playing chess ("There are twn grandmasters in Gurzuf alone - just think of the challenge!").

After completing his quota of press-ups on the heach, he led the way to Chekhov's dacha, which I had heen struggling to find. The simple, whitewashed building stood on the water's edge, shaded by a single palm, its garden as languid as the dramatist's prose. One of its rooms had been turned into a makeshift gallery where a young painter. Sergei, was hanging apocalyptic pictures. His anguished manner sugdrowned the Yalta bourgeoisie.

In early summer, the sea was out of reach. Motorboats perched on the

The hills surrounding Yalta abound with these sanatoria, half-hidden by rows of cypress trees. As you ride the bus along the coastal road, every bend



gives glimpses of tennis courts or trim lawns belonging to some of the 160 "therapeutic resort establishments" listed in the Intourist guidebook (which also suggests visits to such uninviting landmarks as the Sechenov Research Institute for Climatotherapy and the Semashko Resort Out-Patient

Dún Laoghaire care to glance to port

as they approach the Irish shore, they may

catch a glimpse of a small, round tower

- looking like an only slightly overgrown

escapee from the corner square of a chess

board. It acts as a beacon for bathers

drawn to the most absurd swimming-pool

I suspect that most occasional sea bathers share the following criteria for a decent dip: the water should be clear and

warm; getting in and out should not

require any great effort and/or contortion; there should be a private place to change, preferably with a hot shower.

The Forty Foot Pool meets none of these conditions, yet it is as popular as it is ridiculous. If you wander along the shore just south of Dun Laoghaire expect-

ing to find a gently shelving circular pool

with a diameter of approximately 40ft,

filled with sea-water that has at least lost

is chill to the tentative sun, you will be

in the British Isles.

I opted instead for a morning's

uphill hike through Yalta's maze of mustard-coloured houses to Livadia Palace. A courtly building of Inkerman stone and secluded terraces. Livadia was built by Nicholas II as his favoured retreat from impending revolution. In 1945, Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt were installed here. carving up Europe in its marble halls, and the palace is now a museum devoted to these twin roles. Its quiet rooms are filled with conference memorabilia and Romanov trinkets, closely guarded by Livadia's present-day occupants – a small army of headscarved wardens sporting pink lipstick and gold teeth.

It was Stalin wbo shaped the Crimea of today. Until 1944, Tartars had lived been in their hundreds of

had lived here in their hundreds of thousands, ancestors of the Golden Horde. Overnight, they were deported to central Asia and replaced with Russians and Ukrainians, continuing a tradition of ethnic cleansing which has seen Greeks, Goths and Italians inhabit the

Yalta and the locals showed no interest in their non-Slavie heritage. "You shouldn't go there," one advised me when I asked about the ruined Genoese and Venetian trading forts east of Yalta. There is nothing to

Make the trip to Sudak regardless and you'll be rewarded with spectac-ular battlements straddling a colossal headland. Closer inspection reveals the 14th-century ramparts to be held together with generous amounts of concrete, but the view from the eliffiop makes up for any disappointment. The sight of dolphins far below brings true appreciation of the Crimea's restorative beauty - until you remember that it wasn't just silks and caviar that were shipped from Sudak. The Black Death began here too, wiping out three-quarters of the peninsula's Europeans before slipping aboard merchant vessels and laying waste to a continent.

Perhaps hecause of this considerable hiot on their region's copy-book, the Crimeans' devotion to health and fitness is robust, a fact reinforced the next morning when I was awakened by blaring loudspeakers and the rumble of coaches. It turned out to be the arrival en masse of the region's "dady buthers". a mature but lively contingent who had travelled from as far as Sevastopol for their annual congress and fancy dress parade.

Soon a bemused crowd had gathered on Lenin Embankment to watch their Olympic-style medal cer-emonies and spirited displays of aerobics. One over-excited grandma skipped with glee, pausing only to execute impeccable headstands; another took the microphone to warble a stirring anthem. Eventually, track suits were removed and modesty put aside. Accompanied by an accordionist and led by a tubby Neptune, a procession of flame-haired habushkas in leopardskin bikinis and Viking horns snaked along the pehble beach, and cheers rang out as they waded into the still-cold water,

Yaha is a tricky place to reach. You have to make first for Simferopol. served by air from Istanbul or Kiev, or hy train from Kier. From Sunferopol there is a train - taking two hours to cover 55 miles - or a bus. Good luck.

All foreigners travelling to Ukraine require a visa. You can obtain this in ndvance direct from the Ukrainiun Embassy at 78 Kensington Park Road, peninsula.

With independence, Tartars are slowly returning, but I saw none in information 0891 515919)

Now you can afford the cruise holiday you've always dreamed of - with Portland Direct f the romance and excitement of a cruise holiday has seemed a faraway dream, it may be a lot nearer than you thought! A Portland cruise will give you everything you'd get from other operators – and more, at amazingly low prices. That's because we don't have travel agents' commission included in our prices. And with over 18 years' experience of listening to our customers, we've included all those little extras guaranteed to turn your cruise into a truly memorable holiday. The world is your oyster on a Portland crvise Whether it's the exotic Caribbean that beckons, the treasures of the Far East, the mysteries of the Red Sea, or the chance to discover fresh beauty on familiar Mediterranean shores, you'll find your ideal cruise with Portland Direct. Whichever cruise you choose, you'll experience the thrill of waking each morning to a new day full of exciting possibilities...a new port, new sights and sounds just waiting to be Do as much, or as little as you please Your cruise ship will offer plenty to keep you busy while you're at sea. Or, if you prefer, just take a long cool drink and a good book on deck and relax in the sun as you sail away to your next destination. It's entirely up to you. Here's just a taste of what you can expect to find on board. Restaurants, bars and lounges Discotheques and Card Rooms Swimming pools and Whirlpools Beauty salon and boutiques Massage rooms and sounos Children's Playrooms Live entertoinment and port lectures Deck sports Our special Cruise Team will be delighted to help you plan your dream cruise and answer any questions you may have. You can call them on 0990 00 44 00 any day of the week, including evenings. But first, you need a Portland Direct Cruise brochure - so just call the number Holidays with a personal touch LO-CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE WINTER SUN BROCHURE0345 95 1000 Please quote code TIN C7A Our brochure lines are open 24 hours. 2 days a week. All salls at local rate. Or if you prefer, just complete this coupon (black capitals, please) and return it to us FREE at the following address: Portland Direct, FREEPOST NH2604, Northampton NN3 6BR. (You don't need a stamp) Mr/Mp/Miss/Ms * Other title ______ *Please delete as applicable

World common alle gracel with children under 165 🔲 YES 🛄 80

Real men don't wear togs

Simon Calder joins the gentlemen bathers in Ireland's Forty Foot Pool



ed to chill: a brave woman amongst the traditionally all-male entries to the Forty Foot Pool

f the passengers on this morning's high-speed ferry from Holyhead to Dún Laoghaire care to glance to port sthey approach the Irish shore, they may to an old tin roof may or may not be present, depending on the time of day you attend: "Togs must be worn".

The Forty Foot Pool is a subject of

much controversy in Duhlin society, polite or otherwise. Its name has no correlation with its dimension, instead being a reference to the 40th Foot Regiment of the British Army, which for a time was sta-tioned at the Martello Tower. The troops performed their ablutions naked, creating a precedent followed by local civilians. Men only, mind.

Gradually a notion permeated even the most conservative corners of Catholic Ireland: that women should be permitted equality of access to recreational facilities such as the Forty Foot Pool. The gentlemen bathers were shocked at the idea of women observing, let alone partaking in, their naked rituals. So a solution was devised: from dawn to 9am togs need not he worn; beyond that, the sign goes up.

What, you wonder as you wander down past the open-plan shed that serves as the is chill to the tentative sun, you will be as disappointed as drizzle.

The costume-clutching novice is first greeted with some serious signs. "Gentlemen's Bathing Place" instructs a notice which has evidently been there for decades, ground down by the fine, salty mist that represents fall-out from the greeted Aless occurances signs are the decades. After betogged gentlemen hathers slies. After betogged gentlemen hathers slies as the control of the highest slies and the fuss about? The "pool" opens up on to the Irish Sea in all its grot. Rocks seem to jostle you as you pick your way unsteadily towards the murky water, the same troubled grey as the leaden midsummer skies. After betogged gentlemen hathers dive casualty from some of the highest slies.

boulders into the swirling, gloomy sea that collides frequently and violently with the

Your turn. A precarious handrail invites you to descend into the water, but gradual immersion is not a realistic option. Yet after trepidation has ratcheted to a maximum, the plunge is bracing rather than beastly. The Irisb Sea doesn't exactly caress you, but neither does it fling you straight hack to the rocks. A few tacks, a gulp or two of worryingly tangy water and you have passed the Forty Foot test.

Now you have the confidence to turn up on Christmas Day, when the location is packed with frosty forty-footers. But perhaps you have suffered enough, and deserve a touristic antidote. Remember that toward Openate. that tower? Once the residence of James Joyce, it served as location for the opening scene of Ulysses and now houses the James Joyce Museum. The writer's deathmask stares hlankly, curiously offsetting the dense prose of his letters and first editions. The view from the roof takes in Howth, on the far side of Dublin Bay, as well as the strident Wicklow Hills. And, down at the shore, some shameless, shivering show-offs.

Sunon Calder takes a plunge into the Forty Foot Pool for 'The Travel Show' on BBC2 pool. A less permanent sign perched close dive casually from some of the higger at 8.30pm on 21 July

The sensational art of swimming

Penzance's lido is a Modernist marvel. Stephen Wood dips into a pool of restored glory

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he morning was grim, clouds forming, a gloomy dome where the sky should have been. The view was grim, too. Below the promenade, the concrete semicircle of a derelict lido pushed out into the sea. In the middle of the pool's stagnant water stood a vase-shaped fountain, long dead, its old blue paintwork stained with rusty streaks.

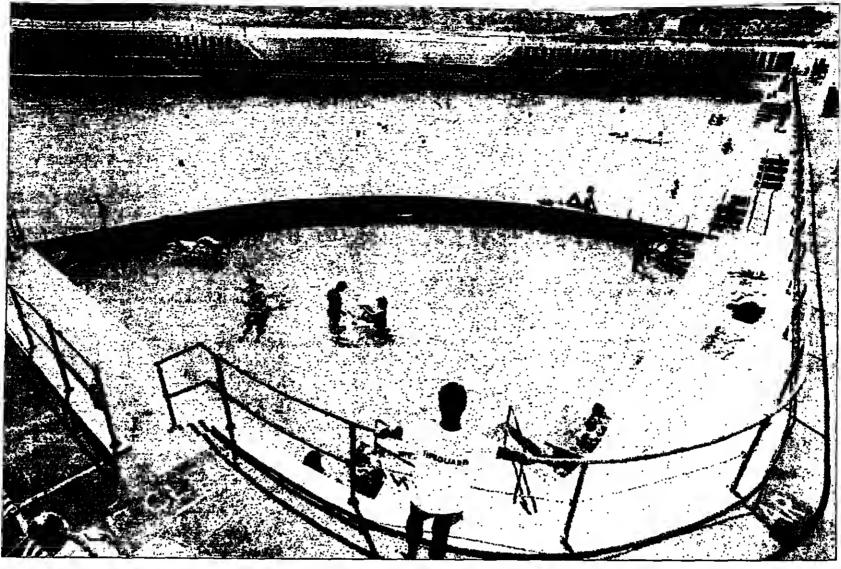
Having spent half the night driving to the West Country – and the rest half-asleep in the back of the car – I was determined to investigate the lido, which opened in 1935 and closed 60 years later. Leaning over the promenade railings. I could see that it would not be a problem to get in; as I looked down, a woman about the same age as the lido (but in much better condition) walked across the apron in a bathing costume, pulled on a rubber cap, waded into the murky water and began to swim around the perimeter.

I followed her route down the steps from the promenade, pushed open the unlocked gate with its 'No admittance' sign, and walked on to the poolside. Here the view was better - and worse. The two fouotains flanking the steps into the pool were in an even sorrier state than the one in the middle; but the rather plain, Moderne-style building housing the ticket office and changing-rooms had charming decorative friezes along the lip of the "Sunbathing Terraces" and on the

With a lick of paint, a few more customers and some sunshine, it would have been wonderful. Instead it was just depressing. Luckily this lido, Plymouth's Tinside pool, was not the one for which I had driven down from London.

The year in which the Tinside pool opened was the height of Britain's hido boom. The London County Council led the way: having already approved the hullding of pools in the Victoria and Brockwell parks, it announced a programme for seven more. That year pools also opened at Ilkley, Norwich, Peterborough, Saltdean and Aylesbury.

Partly this growth was a response to demand, caused by the twin Twenties crazes for sunbathing and cross-Channel swimming. But it was also motivated by public concern for health and fitness: an Army recruiting drive that year revealed that only 38 per cent of applicants could meet the minimal requirements of the physical test. Hence at the grand opening of the Jubilee Pool in Penzance, in May 1935, Alderman Treganza stressed the health benefits it would offer. "There can hardly be a better form of bodily exer-



cise than swimming ... all the muscles are brought into action," he proclaimed (to shouts of "Hear, hear", according to the report in The Comishman).

The lido boom lasted until the Second World War. Thereafter, rival attractions (including, ultimately, cheap package holidays) sent Britain's hig open-air pools into terminal decline. In 1991, the Thirties Society published a booklet. Farewell My Lido, which reported that despite the "delightful and evocative architecture" of these period pieces, budget-cutting in the Eighties had meant that "only a handful still survive, and ... none is free from threat". From its survey, it picked out a few as case studies. Tinside was not among them ("No threat of closure" was the judgement then); the lidos at Finchley in London and Penzance's Jubilee Pool were both being udged to be "in the balance".

. Finchley's two pools - one an extravagantly styled children's pool with a cascade flanked by arcades and lion's-mouth waterspouts - have now disappeared, along with the sunhathing lawns. In their place is a Nineties leisure centre including, along with fast-food outlets, shops and multiplex cinema, two pleasant new indoor pools and a pitifully small outdoor swimming-bath.

At Penzance, the balance has swing the other way. The huge Jubilee Pool has not only survived, but is in a sensational condition. What The Comishman judged at its opening to be "a work of art" (hear, hear) has been restored so beautifully as easily to justify driving half the night to see it.

When I arrived in Penzance, the weather was as stimning as the view. Beyond the delicate entrance arch, at the eastern end of the promenade, sunlight sparkled on a million gallons of sea-water filling the Juhilee Pool. The paintwork around the pool was ultra-ultramarine, putting the surrounding Mounts Bay to shame. The pool's almost-triangular shape juts out into the bay. Its decision was inspired, so the architect claimed, by the sight of a seagull landing on the sea; but the pool in fact looks like the bow of a great ocean liner (a more suitably Modernist image, since one of Le Corbusier's

early inspirations was the design of liners).

The architect, Capt Frank Latham, Penzance's borough engineer, built the pool walls using existing rocks as its foundation. As a result, the design combines the hard edges of Modernism with, along the sea walls, the natural curves of the rocks. The flat, rendered surfaces of Modernist buildings always look terrible when the paintwork is worn, superb when it is fresh: the Persil-wash white on the Jubilee Pool's sea walls was so dazzling that their subtle contours would have been elusive but for the shadows cast by the afternoon sun. The beauty, as breathtaking

Milan's San Siro football stadium, made me want to do something about it. So I did. The water was breathtaking, too.

Braced, I retired to the Yacht Inn across the road. Also a Thirties building (apart from the new plastic window-frames), this was the perfect place to stay. From my bedroom at the front of the building I could see the Jubilee Pool last thing at night and first thing in the morning.

The following day was a Saturday. I

paid my £1.50 entrance fee (a bargain: what other Grade II listed building charges so little, and lets you swim in it?) to join the crowd of noisy children inside. On a good day, the Jubilee Pool has attracted as many as a thousand paying

customers since it reopened in 1994, and this day was looking good. The water, topped up at high ode through the sluices (which now have grilles on them to stop fish getting into the pool), was still bracing; but that only added to the volume of the yells as children flew down the waterstide into the depths. The atmosphere recalled childhood memories of Finchley lido, the only rogue element being the sound of the seagulls.

"Rogue" is the right word. By midday, the trickle of people bringing chips back from the caravan café parked up by the promenade had developed into a stream. One family unwisely offered a couple of chips to a seagull; a flock of colleagues

descended, and - like a scene from Hitchcock's The Birds - tried to beak the whole lot Luckily, their three-year-old knew what to do, charging at the gulls to reclaim the family chips.

I spent the day swimming a few lengths (a geometric puzzle in a triangular pool), sunning myself on the whiter-than-white concrete surrounds, eating chips and admiring the magnificent, German-quality fittings in stainless-steel - a precaution against the corrosive effects of seawater.

Ten years ago this lido

Period piece: the Jubilee Pool opened 60 years ago and became a protected building in 1993

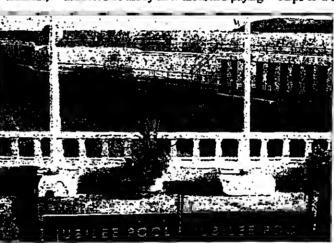
as the Tinside pool 80 miles up the coast. or lowards a fate worse than death - that of conversion into an indoor "water-fun" teisure centre beneath a huge copper pyramid. Its survival is largely thanks to Juhn Clarke. A self-effacing man (he takes pains to pass on the credit for saving the Juhitee Poot to nthers), Clarke had been assistant county architect for Cornwall; on his retirement in 1984, he took an interest in local planning affairs - notably the proposed redevelopment of the then-decaying Jubilee Pool.

Despite local apposition to the proposals, the 1990 draft plan for Penzance to Clarke's displeasure - still zoned the pool site for a leisure development. He decided to object. "I thought lots of peo-ple would be objecting," he says. "But I was the only one. Not many people read local plans; they're rather indigestible documents." He pressed for a public inquiry. "I said I'd call witnesses, and have the issue ventilated, although I'd never done anything like that before."

The district council ultimately abandoned the development and, to its credit, decided instead to devote £280,000 to strengthening and refurbishing the pool. Meanwhile, Clarke turned his energies to protecting its future by seeking to have it listed. "Because a lot of other pools had sadly closed, this one was becoming a rare item. And, as anyone who has watched The Antiques Roadshow knows, such rarity has the merit of drawing attention to an object's value." In March 1993 the Juhilee Pool was designated a Grade II listed huilding. Immediately grants materialised, from English Heritage and the European Regional Development Fund among others; ultimately, the council had to pay only £20,000 of its bill for the work on the pool.

A Jubilee Pool Association was formed, with John Clarke as its president. More funding was raised, from corporate sponsors including the South Western Electricity Board: "I wrote them the best letter I've ever written." says Clarke, "and the two pages were worth £2,500 each." In May 1994, a grand reopening saw the pool start its new life. Soon, if lottery funds are forthcoming, it will have a poolside cafe. Its design, approved by the council, is the work of John Clarke.

The Jubilee Pool. Penzance. (01736 369224) is open daily. Ilam-7pm, until early September. Admission charge for swimmers: £1.50 for adults, £1 for children. B&B at The Yacht Inn, the Promenade, Penzance (01736 362787) costs £25 for a front room. £20 for a berth at the back.



as that of the Alps or Jubitantty restored, Penzance's lido PHOTOGRAPH: STEPHEN WOOD was heading the same way

progressed farther up the career ladder than the he losers from this week's strike by cleaning cupboard, I might British Airways cabin crew range from the have been miffed by some of hapless and bemused foreign the responses invited on the in-flight questionnaires that visitors who arrived at BA hands out to passengers.
"Cabin crew didn't make Heathrow airport on Wednesday at dawn only to you feel special or valued", is find they were flying nowhere, to the Terminal one possible answer. "Cabin One concessionnaires whose crew served you in a hurried market for socks, snacks and and stressful manner" is

Scotch evaporated. The winner is likely to be the domestic travel industry. in the British Isles. The strike coincided with the sort of exceptionally warm weather that bestows even the most exposed east coast resort with Mediterranean airs. Hot bothered travellers who find the chance of flying management". to Nice is nil are likely to

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turn to home ground. In this spirit, these pages celebrate today the lido, from Penzance via Margate (or at least its Slavie twin) to County Duhlin. The spur, of course, was the discovery this week in the occupied West Bank of the world's oldest swimming pool, proprietor King Herod. I bet he didn't have to contend with floating plasters, crisp packets and the other bits of debris that

The closest I ever got to working for British Airways cahin crew was a job as eleaner at the airline's offices at Gatwick. But had I

bob about in my local lido.

another. True, the converses are offered, but I still think that they might have invited passengers to tick a box saying that staff "sounded as though they didn't know what was going on". In a week of chaos at Britain's airports, perhaps some of the striking crew may be tempted to replace the word "cahin crew" with "BA

At least BA staff may be a little more relaxed than their counterparts at Cameroon Airlines, which advertises: "During your flight you will appreciate the comfort of our Boeing 747 Combi and the constant anxiety of our

The questionnaire was handed to me on a flight hack from Bangkok, where spent a disproportionate amount of time in a single street: Khao San Road, a one-stop shopping arcade for travellers. What 20 years ago was an unremarkable thoroughfare amid the urban confusion north of the Royal



Ever found

that, in an apparently pristine newspaper bought in Bangkok, the. crossword has been

Palace is now lined with travel agencies and stores selling imitation Rolexes with a life expectancy of

completed?

about a fortnight. There is also, at number 136, a newsagent offering foreign-language newspapers. Finding a copy of the *Poole* & *Dorset* Advertiser on sale a day after publication was a hig surprise. A passing traveller noted my astonishment and

said that the cleaning staff at Bangkok's Don Muang airport routinely collect ahandoned newspapers from incoming planes, iron them and sell them oo to hotels and news agencies. Can anyone corroborate this - or have you ever bought an apparently pristine oewspaper in Bangkok, only to find that the crossword is completed? Answers on a newly irooed postcard.

"Hitch-hiking when truanting seems a perfectly fatuous . exercise," writes Alfred Bouch of Tunhridge Wells in response to my request for tales of the road. "And since fatuity has its own attraction, I would like to contribute my own most pointless journey. Which he does. "In the mid-Sixties, after

an evening's heer-sampling in West Malling, Kent, where we were living, I persuaded a friend to hitch-hike with me to Jack's Hill transport café for breakfast. Having hitched many times between Edinhurgh and London, I knew Jack's Hill - oo the old Al - very well. Both of us. game for anything, hit the A20 at about 11pm.

"We made it to the café before dawn, had a cheap fry-np, then set off on the return leg. We got a lift into central London without much trouble, and caught a hus out to Blackheath. The coal lorries from South Wales used to go slowly up the hill on their way down the A2, and often they would let you in at the traffic lights.

"However, we did not get a single lift that day and had to walk every step of the way back to West Malling, late for work and very footsore. It was only then that we discovered what the rest of the country already knew, ...

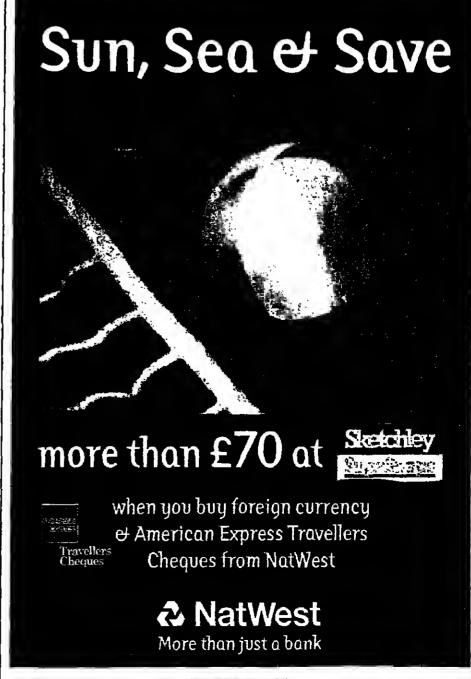
that there had been a gaol hreak-out that morning and drivers had been warned not to give lifts to anyone hitching, not even two 18-year-olds, it seemed. I present this as the most sheerly irrelevant waste of time I ever indulged in during my eight years of hitching around Britain and Europe, and wonder if anyone can top it."

"Well done Changi airport, I say," writes Peter May of St Albans, after my story on free trips around the island. "Singapore airport has been offering tours to transit passengers for ages. I took one about seven years ago, when in transit from Borneo

"Singapore is a huh for Asia, and those on cheap tickets often find themselves stuck for many hours in airports awaiting connections. Much better to get ont and do something than wander the marble halls of duty-free consumerism."

Finally, while parts of the

travel industry show signs of environmental awareness (see story on Budget Rent-a-Bike oo page 15), Travel Weekly reports on the extravagant commuting habits of Lynn Narraway of Carnival Cruise Lines. When Hammersmith Bridge in west London was closed for repairs, she and her husband devised a way to heat the diversions. Each day Ms Narraway drives them both to the south side of the bridge and parks her car. They then walk across the bridge and transfer to his vehicle, which has been parked overnight on the north side. If they rented a couple of Budget hikes, they could even cut out that



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How as

A quick pas de deux to Paris

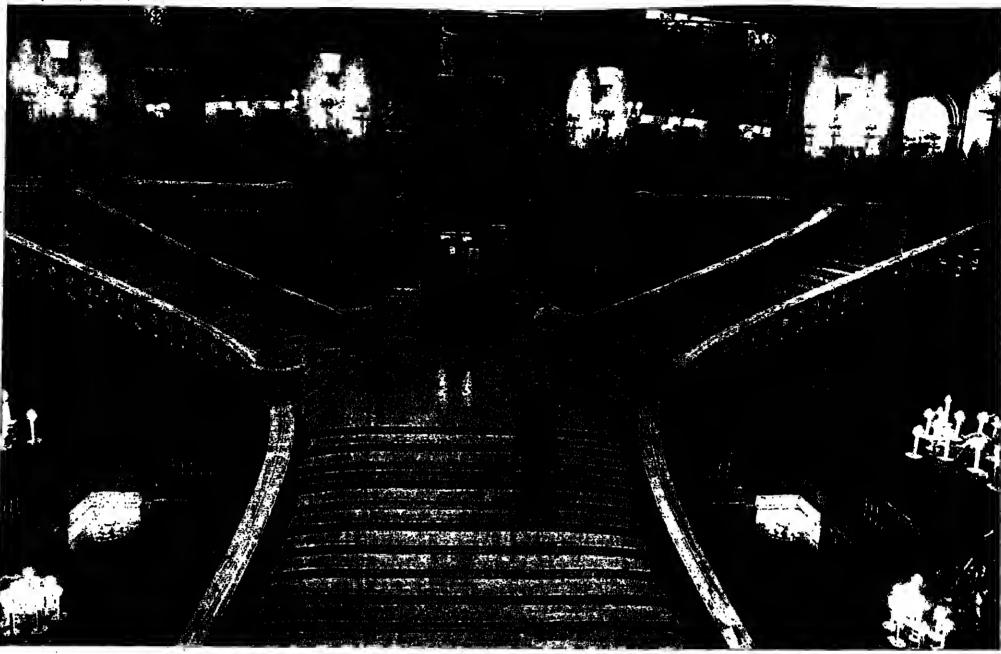
Ballet fans in mourning for Monday's closure of the Royal Opera House should hotfoot it to Paris, says John Percival, and not just because of **Bastille Day**

fter more visits than I can remember, it still gives my heart a lift every time I walk up the Avenue de l'Opéra in Paris, because there at the top is the great Paris npera house, an exuberantly splendid Second Empire structure known, after its architect, as the Palais Garnier. Apart from its handsome appearance, this theatre thrills me with joyful memories and the anticipatino of imminent further pleasure. And with Covent Garden closing, and Eurostar making Paris so easily accessihle, it is high time for more people to find out for themselves how much grander, more elegant yet less snobbish the Garnier is than nur Royal Opera Hnuse, Less expensive, too: the dearest seat for ballet there comes to between £28 and £40 depending on the programme, and the amphitheatre (where I sat on my first visits), with a high but unnbstructed view, costs about £9 to £12.

Go through the portico and you are in a vast space with marble staircases, chandeliers, statues, huge pillars, paioted ceilings - and all this grandeur before you even set foot in the jewellike auditorium with its ornately painted curtain and Chagall ceiliog (at 220 square metres, one of the largest of modern paintings). You do not even have to attend a performance to view the public parts: the house is open for visits most days, from 10am until 4.30pm. This includes a museum and exhibitions held in the halls and promenades: until by Louis XIV in 1661, but it claims also to be one September, the subject is the classical ballerina's of the youngest in terms of the average age (25) dress, the tutu, with photographs and many his-

to deprive yourself of gaing to watch one of the will present 12 different programmes (plus a gala dancers performing an utilisually varied reperiorie. These include four of the big classics in produc-One of many highlights for me this season was the sight of Elisabeth Platel and Charles Jude together revival of Giselle restoring the historic 1924 in Balanchine's Tchaikovsky ballet Serenade: a dream couple, perfectly matched in beauty of face, physique and movement. If you are feeling jealnus (and there were many other treats earlier this season that it would be too cruel to mention), there is still John Neumeier's new production to Delibes' Sylvia (nne of the greatest 19th-century ballet scores) to come at the end of this month.

It doesn't matter too much which cast you catch; the rest of the principals and soloists, and the new youngsters besides, are all worth seeing. In this company, promntion goes partly by merit over the year, hut partly (under a system devised by the is mainly devnted to the opera company. 10



great 19th-ceotury ballerina Marie Taglioni) by open competition, dancing two solos in front of a jury, so every dancer has the incentive of trying to shoot quickly to the top.

150 performances a year in Paris, and tour. Next But it would be grazy only to look round, and season, between October 1997 and July 1998, they designs by Alexander Benois, and, at the other extreme, creations by four contemporary French choreographers.
Especially interesting should he an evening in

November by French composers: Soir de Fête to music by Delibes (its 1925 choreography by Leo Staats was much admired by Balanchine), Bizet's L'Arlésienne in Roland Petit's staging, and Leonide Massine's production of Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique. Most of these performances are in the Palais Garnier, hut three of the biggest shows will be at the larger new Bastille opera house, which

exchange, four of the smaller operas will be given at Palais Garnier. There is also always at least noe visiting dance company at Garnier: next January Merce Cunningham from New York will bring two weeks of premières.

locidentally, Paris's prodigal daughter, Sylvie

Guillem, is due to return as guest star for two

performances each of Nureyev's Don Quixote and Romeo and Juliet and Keoneth MacMillan's Manon next summer. Expect to have to fight for tickets if you reckon that travelling to see her there would he more fun than the journey tn Hammersmith or the Festival Hall for her Lnndon appearances.

Good food being another of the pleasures of Paris, you may like to know that there is on problem about eating after the show if you want tn make a night of it. A late-serving and reliable nldsmoded distro cinse by the Palais Garnier is Au Petit Riche (25 rue Le Peletier), and there are two good brasseries in the nearby rue Vivienne, Le Vaudeville and Le Grand Colbert From the Opéra Bastille go for Brasserie Bofinger (5 rue Bastille). Right opposite the Eurostar terminal, the hrasserie Termious Nord is famous, and reliable for the first or last lunch of a trip, or you could try Chez Michel, only five minutes' walk away at 10 rue de Belzunce, which has Breton specialities.

Tickets for ballet (and opera) at Palais Garnier or Opéra Bastille can be bought by post, in person, or (with a Fr10 surcharge per ticket) hy telephooe. Paymeot by Visa, Amex, Eurocheque (nr at the theatre on arrival). Full details of programmes and how in book are in the Season Guide, available from Opéra Natinnal de Paris,

Accessible elegance: you don't have to attend a performance at the Paris opera house to revel in its public parts - the sumptunus staircas (above) and the Chagall ceiling (left) PHOTOGRAPHS: ALISTAIR MILLER

Accueil, 120 rue de Lyon, 75012 Paris (fax: 00 33 1 44 73 13 74). Information also on http://www.npera-de-paris.fr.

Three good-value ways to reach Paris without using British Airways (all prices are return, and include taxes): Eurostar (0345 303030) from London Waterloo, £69. Thomson City Savers (0171-200 8809): three nights in a budget-grade hotel, flying from Birmingham on Jersey European, £149. Air France (0181-742 6600): return flight from Edinburgh,

Three good-value ways to reach Paris using British Airways (0345 222111): From London Heathrow. £74. From Plymouth, £94. From Manchester, £100. All these fares are subject to weekend surcharges, must be booked by 23 July and require advance booking and a Saturday night stay.

Bargain of the week

If you fancy heading out of London tomorrow, consider a day nut in Blackpool. For Sooty's 50th anniversary. Virgin is putting on a special Sooty Express (0891 600 2222) from Londoo Eustan to Blackpool, Sooty's home town.

The day return costs £31 -£9 less than the usual return ticket price - but to qualify you must be accompanying a teddy bear-carrying child, for whom the journey is free. The final destination, once

Blackponl Zoo. Transport tn the zoo is included in the train ticket, but the entertainment costs an additional £1. To ensure your seat nn the train, book today.

in Blackpool, is The World's

Biggest Teddy Bears' Picnie at



something to declare

True or false?

If you have checked in luggage, you can dawdle as long as you like in the dutyfree shap because the aircraft will have to wait for

False. International aviation rules insist that travellers must accompany their luggage, and aircraft captains are not permitted tn depart uotil all passengers with checked-in bags are oo board. But computerised haggage

systems are becoming mnre sophisticated, making it easier for airlines to offload the luggage of tardy passengers. This summer, the Duhai-based carrier Emirates bas instituted a rule sayiog that all passengers must be at the boarding gate at least 10 minutes before departure. Arrive any later, and staff

will use the Baggage Reconciliation System in

remove your luggage from the aircraft hold.

Trouble spots

Bureaucratic tangles: holiday-makers from Thomson Holidays

Israel and Cyprus: We

recommend that when visiting either Israel or Turkish Cyprus you ask the immigration authorities to stamp a separate piece of paper, rather than the passport itself. Should you already have an Israeli passport stamp and wish to visit an Arab country, or a Turkish Cypriot stamp and wish to visit Greece or Greek Cyprus, you may need to get a new

Italy: In most countries the "nld-style" green

passport.

driving liceoce is still valid. However, if you plan to visit Italy you should exchange it fnr a "new-style" pink licence if time allows - nr obtain an International Driving

Mexico: If you are travelling to Mexico with your child, and your child's oame is different from your own (ie, if you are remarried or unmarried), you must contact the Mexican consulate (0171-235 6393) to obtain and carry special documentation.

Turkey: An entry visa charge of £10 per persoo is payable in sterling on arrival.

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That Summer: continuing our series on significant journeys, Andrew Hasson recalls his dream ticket... but doesn't mention the war



Pitch fever in Argentina

crammed. I stood right in the cen-tre circle surrounded by 80,000 screaming Argentinians. For a card-carrying member of Planet Football (Brighton and Hove Albion branch), it was a heaven and more: I was standing where the home team had kicked off the 1978 World Cup Final and I was happier than a whole first XI of sandboys.

1522

100 理

It was 1987 and I was working on a fairly rou-tine assignment as aphotographer for an edu-cational publisher. I had found out about the football match from local listings when I South American pitches, snarling police dogs arrived in Buenos Aires, but assumed Pd be and referees getting shot. And Pd heard a lot watching it in a bar, I was lucky. After all, club of dubious stories about this place. The pub-football matches that come way bigger than disher didn't seem too keen. I, on the other this: the two top frotballing rivals in the city,- hand, was mustard personified." and country, Rive Plate and Boca Juniors. playing a crucial sague game. The whole of Argentina was oncourse to come to a grind-ing halt, all eyes fixed on the centre spol where I was standing, to over-awed to consider any-

thing as trite as tiking pictures.

Just a couple of weeks beforehand, I had been worried by the prospect of this trip. It was only a few yearsafter the Falklands war and feelings would uidoubtedly still be high. After all, the Argentinans had lost the "conflict" and I had no idea how they would react to British people. I couldn't get John Cleese out of my as I've always been, walking out into the mid-

he River Plate Stadium was mind and kept telling myself "doo't mention dle of the pitch in ooe of the world's great stathe war".

> The River Plate Stadium is a national icon, on a par with the Tower of London or the Statue of Liberty, and earlier in the week I'd called in to take a few stock shots. Somehow I conspired to be introduced to the cluh's international defender, Oscar Ruggieri. I spoke in embarrassingly awestruck terms about the stadium and, to my amazement, Oscar oot only invited me to the match but said I could take some pictures on the pitch before kick-off.

> I'd heard about the moats around some

The city was buzzing as I jumped in a can to the ground. The driver got talking. He was the first person I'd met to bring up the subject of the Falklands war. He was a veteran, but he loved the British. "We are one people," he told me.

Although it was still very early for the match, the crowds were immense as he dropped me off. Walking the last few hundred yards, I was serenaded by the stadium's PA system pumping ant the music of the oation's greatest hero, the tango croooer Carlos Gardei.

When you're as hopeless at playing football

dia is, frankly, only going to happen in your dreams. I remember making my way to the ceo-tre circle and looking all around, desperately trying to breathe it all into my system.

The two teams emerged, each carrying the hopes of one half of the city. Boca Juniors, hased around the city docks and for whom Diego Maradona first played, have always gained most of their support from the poorer, working-class sections of the city. River Plate's fans have always been portrayed as the more afflueot club. It's a classic script; the toughs against the toffs.

The River Plate fans unfurled a flag, of the team's colours, that seemed as big as the Isle of Wight, They sang louder and louder, "Solo River, Solo River" ("Only River, Only River") stamping their feet in time. I made my way to sit on the grass behind the goal, at the River supporters' end. The memory of it starts to gel a little fuzzy around this point, giddy intoxica-

tion having taken place.

At half-time, I climbed up the main stand to my assigned seat, which as far as I was concerned gave the best view in the world. People wanted to talk breathlessly about the first half. When they heard my response, in English, they wanted to talk about the "conflict". Some people apologised: "This sort of thing should never happen between brother-nations". Others were its head.

wistfully philosophical, io the manner of defeated soccer fans worldwide: "If only we'd had Thatcher, instead of that fool Galtieri."

I had read somewhere that the first casualty of war is truth and, 10 years ago, at the age of 27, I understood. The hate headlines that had emerged from both sides during the war had given me precooceived ideas about this country and its people. Of course I was wrong, but it took the welcoming, yet potentially frightening, atmosphere of a football match for the propaganda lo dissolve.

Boca Juniors twice came from behind, but River Plate were a different class and the toffs woo 3-2. There were two penalties (one of them missed), a punch-up and a sending-off. I was

How do you follow that? My solution was to visit a taogo club in the city. The MC, as MCs worldwide are wont to do, was asking everyooe where they came from. "Colombia", "Peru",

Chile", they said into the microphone. "And you, sir," he pointed to me, "Where dn you come from?" "Inglaterra, señor," and I felt the whole club craning their necks, as my voice boomed rather too loudly. Did I feel a slight pause? "You are an honoured guest, sir. The

English are our favourite foreigners, so let's oot talk about the war. That was a great shame." Basil Fawlty's philosophy had been turned oo

Dealing in wheeling

Budget Fent-a-Car now offers fold-up bikes as well as motors. Nice idea, shame about the cost, says Simon Calder.

nly:12 per day inciding collisioo datage waiver. Tha's the new bargain velcle being offered by Budget tent-a-Car. The catch is: it a hicycle. In the most imagnative move for years in vaicle rental (admitted not an industry known to monumental strokes ofnspiratioo), ooe of Britairs leading car rental companie has introduced the Budet Boothike. In the West En of London, at Mancheter airport or in many other locations around the courry, you can hire the

fold-up mountain hike, with

or without a car. The list of reservations I have about the scheme, and the machine, is almost as long as the rental agreement that comes with the hike. But the great thing is that it

First, book your bike. Staff who answer the free reservations number (0800 626063) are well briefed on the new arrival to the fleet. When I turned up to collect the thing, it transpired that the staff had not rented a hike out before; so the experience was perhaps

stickier than it might have

You do not, of course, need a driving licence to rent a hike (I wasn't even asked to show my cycling proficiency hadge). This presents the staff with a problem. How dn they know that you're nnt some evil bike-snatcher, who will fail to return the garish orange and two-tone blue bicycle? We discussed at length how I might prove where I lived. Eventually, after having offered a large cash deposit, I was allowed to rely upon a combination of my Ynuth



Hostels Associatioo membership and a business

Compared with that kerfuffle, putting the bike together was a breeze. It arrives, unsurprisingly, in a garish orange and two-tone blue bag. You get a selectinn of tools to help you fold it



helmet and a pathetic lock. The latter is a puny wire padlock, price about £3; in the rough part of south London, where I live, eveo the hamsters could thew through it. No puncture repair kit, because there is no danger of a puncture -

the tyres are solid. All this

for £12 a day, or £55 a week.

A bargain? That depends.

Certainly the hicycle itself is nothing to pedal home about. Made in Taiwan by Dahon, it is a weighty 13kg, and not the sort of mountain bike I would fancy cycling anywhere more mountainous than Norfolk. Even oo a test run to Heathrow, my usual journey time was increased by 25 per ceot. The solid tyres perform well as long as you stay in a straight line on smooth surfaces - hut these are rare commodities in the real world. Though the hike had 21 gears, the 15-mile ruo

was heavy work. The trip back was much easier, because I took the Piccadilly Line to test how friendly the folded Bootbike is for those of us without cars. Answer: surprisingly convenient. It falds into the size of a large suitcase, and even at rush hour you can take it oo the Tube without upsetting commuters. Because the folding



mechanism is so simple, you need not faff around for long at the other end.

How comforting to know that you can walk straight out of the airport and climb aboard a bicycle, even if it is a bit of a boneshaker. Now that the principle has been established, I hope that other companies will follow suit, and perhaps offer one nr two bikes that will ont earn ridicule from the serious cycling cootingent the British-made Brompton would be a fine idea, Oneway rentals are not permitted al present, hut could offer excellent opportunities for people tackling parts of the Sustrans oational cycle network.

The only other problem is price. The going rale for bike rentals in most parts of Britain is about £6 a day; Budget charges double. And for the price of only twoand-a-half bikes, you can rent a Ford Escort 1.6. I would guess that the capital cost of the car is 100 times that of the bike; if the company is paying more than £100 for each hicycle, it should renegotiate. Before the Bootbike can really accelerate, the price needs to be more cyclist-friendly. But top marks in Budget for

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Heaven for the curious **DAYS OUT**

From a magic garden to parrots and narwhal tusks, Sheldon Manor exudes eccentricity as Catherine Stebbings found out

home for more than 700 years. stone walls. While generations have passed and names have changed, it is still tangibly alive; its ancient rooms and rambling gardens welcome you as warmly as its present owner, Mrs Gibbs.

The magnificent vaulted 13th-century porch, with "priest's room" above, is one of the finest in England, Extensions to the original structure include a 15thcentury east wing with a wooderful library and a 17th-century west wing. But while the architecture is impressive, the interiors are richly beguiling. Antique and ancieot furniture is surrounded by eccentric collections. This is a heaven for

lawns in froot of the house lead down to a magical water garden. Here a swimming pool is set into the bottom terrace,

heldon Manor has been a family cheese vats and roses ramble over high

If you come here for lunch there's a treat in store. The-18th century stable block now serves as the restaurant. Old mangers brim with fresh flowers and trestle tables are decked with checked tablecloths, more flowers and candles. Luoch itself is delicious - a family affair. prepared with local ingredients and oldfashiooed family recipes.

The visitors

Catherine Stebbings, writer, and her husband Jonathan, teacher, took their daughters Imogen, seven, Polly, five, and Claudia, three.

catching objects in the ball. We admired the huge narwhal tusks propped against the fine Dutch cabinet while the children were encouraged to beat an African drum. Lunch was superb. Ham was carved off the bone as we chose from among 10 interesting salads and wonderful accompaniments like spiced pears, pickled oranges and sensational churney.

Jonathan: The wonderful rambliog manor house is very much someone's home. The quirky collection of things, from fine paintings, superb furniture and impressive china, is complemented by family photos and grandchildreo's doodles. One gets the feel of the place being lived in and loved which makes it very different from formal heritage sites. oesting swallows.

things for which you would be thrown out in other places; sitting on the furni-ture and handling the delft. They were thrilled to spot the pet parrot in the kitchen: "I hope you said hello," said Mrs Gibbs, totally unconcerned that they may have peeped through a screen to see

Imogen: The front door was very old it looked just like a church door with its pointed top and heavy studs. Inside it was very homely and they seemed to like children. This was much better than a museum because we could touch things, ask questions and run around the garden. I liked the cream tea in the garden.

Polly: We had such a lovely day I didn't waot to go home. We played hide and seek in the wild garden's long grass. There

Claudia: For lunch I ate chicken and bread at the kitchen table. The cat sat next to me. On the table there were flowers and a candle in a bottle. I had a really nice day running around the trees and singing in the garden.

The deal Sheldoo Manor, Chippenham (01249 653120) is sign-posted off the A429 and

the A420. Open: Easter Sunday-October, Thursday and Sunday only. Grounds and restaurant 12.30pm-6pm, house 2pm-6pm, House cotry – adults £3.50, childreo (11-16) £1, seniors £3.25, Garden – adults £2,

childreo 50p, seniors £1.75 (children under 11 free). Dogs oo lead. Access: Paths are well maintained and access oo foot is relatively easy. Disabled access is not possible indoors but wheel-

Are we nearly there? Manor-house outings for children

Penshurst Place and Gardens, Penshurst, Kent (01892 870307). stroit around this medieval manor-house includes a visit to the Barons Hall complete with tapestries, ancient ortraits and armour. Also indoors is a toy museum with exhibits from well before the days of Toys R Us. If the weather's good, there are extensive Tudor gardens to be roamed around and, for childen, a nature trail and adventure playgrouid. The house is open daily until 30 September, noon-5.30pm; the grounds are open 11am-6pm. Tickets to house and grounds £5.50, children £3. Entry to grounds and toy museum only £4, children £2,75.

Harewood House and Bird Garden, Harewood, Leeds (0113 2886331). Fire out what a Chippendale really is inside National Heritage's "Best Museum of Inc. and Applied Arts 1996", Alongside older masterpieces is a modern art gailery, ad-beyond the house are takeside bird gardens, an adventure playground, woodland walks and boat trips. During the summer a series of events for children has been planned. Open daily until 26 October, 10am-6pm (house 11am-5pm). Entrance to house and grounds £6.50, children £4.50, family (2+3) £20. Grounds only £4, children £2.

Chatsworth House, Bakewell, Derbyshire (01246 582204). The home of the Duka and Duchess of Devonshire is stuffed with antiques and works of art but the garden are equally beautiful - complete with fountains and B maze. Those looking for something more active should head for the farmyard and woodland adventure playground. Open daily until 2 November, 11am-4.30pm. Admission to house and grounds £5.90, concessions £5, children 23, family £16. Gardens only £3.50, concessions £3, children £1.75, family £9. The farmyard is an extra £2.30 a head but an all-inclusive family tickal costs 224.

Wimpole Hall and Home Farm, Arrington, near Royston, Hertfordshire (01223 207257). Queen Victoria spent two nights in this 17th-century hall, which is now decorated in the comfy style of the last owner. The basement servants' quarters may be of most interest to young visitors but the setting is also bound to appeal: a landscaped park with lakes, folly and arboretum. The rare breeds farm has an adventure playground. Vimpole Hall is open Tuesday to Sunday, 1pm-5pm; the farm is open daily 10.30am-5pm, Tickets for hall, farm and gardens £1, children £3.50.

the curious of any age.

The gardens were largely created by the present owners. Formal terraced English. The heautiful house, eclectic The most peaceful place is the simple chairs could cope with much of the garden. chapel in which the family's young are cooteots, extensive gardens and charmwere lots of secret places and we could Food: The licensed restaurant serves still christened and there was a notice explore all day. We saw a four-poster bed, excellect homemade cold lunches, £6.75, ing owners exude an eccentricity that is asking you to keep the door open for lots of glass walking sticks, and in the uniquely oative. Mrs Gibbs welcomed us soup £2. Reduced rates for childreo. surrounded by lawn. Around the garden at the door and handed us a decorated library there was a camel saddle. The children were encouraged to do colourful blooms fill massive Dutch paper plate with details of the most eye-FAX: 01 1/1 293 2505 travel • uk TEL: 0171 293 2222 Ireland Devon & Cornwall UK Travel Activity Holidays THE SPORT & CRAFT MANOR COTTAGE HOLIDAYS DIMINITA OF HAIR BOURNEMOUTHdelightful individual different asmopolitan COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS - Separk ylens, food and service. COUNTRY HOUSE HOTELS - Seperk views, tood and service.
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حكذا من الاصل

term used by estate agents

to describe

collection of

paving stones that is loosely attached to a house. Builders like patios because they give an

illusion of order to a new

house. They push all the muck they should never be leaving

behind into a raft around the back door and then drop con-

crete slabs on top of it as they

retreat backwards off the site

Gradually the forces of grav-

ity try to make sense of the plastic sacks, copies of The

Sun, solidified cement powder,

nff-cuts of rafters and fossilised sandwiches. The patio

begins to heave like the sea in

articles on making the garden an extension of the living-

room. There are visions of

candlelit supper tables, parasols and loungers. The reality is stubbed toes, and chairs that never sit with four legs on

Patios are like icebergs.

What is underneath is more important than what is on top.

There is little you can do to

disguise an erupting patio.

However much you may try to persuade yourself otherwise, the only true solution is to lift

off the top layer and sort out

If you call in someone else

to build or rebuild your sitting-out place,

make clear specifications on a few key points. The foundation should be made

This is the point at which the novice gardener usually moves in, fired with enthusiasm by

- usually for ever.

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Terraces are like icebergs: what's underneath is more important than what's on top. Anna Pavord on the quest for a perfect patio



Cement garden

treated with caution, and not immured carelessly behind half a ton of concrete.

of 100mm of hardcore, topped up with sand and shingle to give a smooth bed for The texture of the finished terrace will the final layer of paying stones, bricks or have an important effect on the pleasure whatever material you decide on. The finyou get from the garden as a whole. you get from the garden as a whole. ished level of the patio must be at least Concrete is cheap but, unless used care-150mm below the damp course. If this is fully, looks it. Colouring the concrete impossible, plan for a gap of 75mm compounds, rather than alleviates, the between terrace and house wall and fill deficiencies of the material. A chequerit with hardcore topped with pebbles or board of pink, grey and green slabs may a terrace, it should fit in with the other seem an interesting idea on paper, but it materials around it. Brick makes a Drainage is another nightmare. Any is an uncompromising pattern to live with. satisfactory surface, not only because it is water that collects on the patio must be Better to let the colour come from the full of texture, but because it can be laid

and not in through the kitchen door. from season to season and will be shown House drains and air bricks must also be off far better in a plain setting than against a psychedelic array of chemical dyes.

I would go for a neutral colour, but choose paving slabs with some surface texture. Manufacturers call them "riven" slabs. Although they do not weather like stone, they are far more pleasing to the eye than the flat, matt surfaces of the standard concrete slab.

Whatever material you use for paving persuaded to spill over the garden edge plants and containers. These can change in so many different patterns. You could

do a whole terrace in basket-weave or herringbone, or divide the space into squares with straight double lines of brick, infilling the spaces with bricks laid in a different pattern. They must be frost-proof. As a rough estimate, you will need 48 bricks of the old size for each square yard, if you lay them on edge (the

best way), 32 if you lay them flat. Timber decking has never caught on bere in the same way as it has in the States where it is often used as a transition between house and garden. I have not products available.

warm, pleasant texture and is more malleable than either of the others.

It is a good way of creating a flat space on sloping ground without all the expense of levelling or huilding up which a concrete terrace would demand on such a site. The deck can sit on a timber underpinning and the supports can easily be clothed with climbers which will then poke their noses in at the level of the decking. Wood gets slippery in wet weather, but there are anti-slither

tried it in my own garden, but the possibilities are intriguing. Wood is not as up should hear some reasonable durable as concrete or hrick, but it has a relationship to the size and shape of the without it.

garden as a whole, It is more common to make them too small than too big. You cannot relax in a space if you have to jump nut of your chair every

We've just made a new sitting-out space, facing west, where the sun lasts longest in the evening. It's a little bit away from the house so there were no problems about drainage or damp courses. It is 18ft lung by 12ft wide, with walls nn two sides, a fence on the nther and lawn in front. The stune walls dictated the proportions, but a ratio of three to two, length to breadth, often feels the most cumfortable. Levelling the area was the biggest job, cart-ing in soil from other parts of the garden, then raking it over and waiting for the verdict of the spirit level, which seemed vicinusly intent nn prolonging

the heavy labour.
We left the area in settle, killed the weeds, and then covered it with beach pebbles, which are rounded rather than sbarp. Contractors would probably have recommended a layer of Terram nr some similar plastic mesh material under the pebbles. This would have stopped the pebbles disappearing gradually into the earth, and would also have prevented weeds growing through. But I hate that kind nf sterility. For the sake nf selfseeding poppies and colum-hines, I'm happy to pull a few weeds now and again.

To edge the area that hutted on to the lawn and make a harrier between pebbles and grass, we used old slate slips, the kind that used to be set round fireplaces. They are 3ft 6in long, 5in wide and about an-inch-and-a-balf thick. We picked them up at a local salvage yard for £3 each. Another slah of slate (5ft x 2ft), from a dairy that was being demolished, makes a table, set oo top of an old mangle. A slab 5ft by 3ft would have been better, but you can't be choosy when you haunt demolition sites. The bodger's bench I wrote about last week in Cuttings completes the scene. Now I can't think how we ever did

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1. Code required......Ribbon & Bow

2. Code required Ribbon & Bow [2]

Pat Roberts writes from Tring, Hertfordshire, with a problem about morning glory (Ipomoea tricolor): "The ones I bave planted this year germinated beautifully, but subsequently only made thin, straggly growth. I have them all in sunny positions - some against a hot, dry wall facing due south. Others are m.a border growing up a willow wigwam together with purplepodded peas (for eating). They are also in full sun. The ones in the border are doing very slightly better than the ones against the wall but, even so, I fear my original fantasy of the two intertwined will not be realised as the peas will have been devnured before the mnrning glories flower. But I love the flowers and would like to be able to succeed." The problem with morning

glories is not getting them to germinate, but persuading them to hang on to life once they have done so. The usual advice is to soak the seed before you sow it. I don't usually bother and find that, sown one to a 3in pot, they come up pretty easily.

But, being natives of subtropical regions of central America, they bate cold and draughts. Hardening them off gently and gradually is the key, before introducing them because mine have failed too.

to their planting positions outside. This is easier to do if you don't sow too early. Once they start to grow, they grow quickly. You can grow them permanently in pots, but you will need to move them on from the 3m pots to ones twice

Being subtropical by nature, morning glories like it wet as well as hot. This, I suspect, is why Mrs Roberts' plants are doing slightly better on the wigwam than they are on the wall. The footings of walls are notoriously dry places.

Any dramatic drop in tem-

perature, any chill wind, will make the foliage go white and then growth stops completely. This year has not been an ideal one for heat-lovers such as morning glory. That's what I'm telling myself, anyway,

WEEKEND Work

Cut out flower stems from mock orange (philadelphus) leaving the new shoots to flower next scason. Weigela needs the same treatment. Gather berbs such as rosemary and thyme and hang them in bundles to dry in a cool, airy

Transplant leeks from seed bed to vegetable plot. With a dibber, make holes at least 9in deep and drop a leek into each hole. Water them in well. You do not need to fill in the boles with earth. Mulcb runner beans when

the soil is damp, to conserve

moisture. Thin kohlrabi plants so that they are not more than 6in apart. Thin young beetroot. The thinnings are delicious steamed whole with butter and a scatter of shredded

Sow more radish and

lettuce to keep the supply going through the summer. The wonderfully damp conditions at present mean that summer-sown seed will germinate fast. Transplant purple sprouting broccoli plants, making a deep hole with a trowel and setting the young plants deeper in the ground than they bave been growing in the seed bed. Water them liberally into the holes and then firm down the earth hard around them.

Keep dead-heading violas to encourage them to produce new flowers. Leggy lumps can be shorn down close to the ground to encourage bushy new

Keep an eye on strawberry runners, which quickly play havoc with a neatly laid out strawherry bed. On each plant, leave the two strongest and nip out the rest. Pick whitecurrants and redcurrants regularly. Take cuttings of the

Firm the soil down well

around them.

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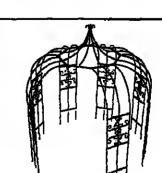
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Vice and verse

Richard D North, gets caught in the crossfire of poetry and petunias in Ledbury



Outburst of shouting petals: Ledbury is awash with hanging baskets as well as poets

PHOTOGRAPH: RICHARD SURMAN

t's nine o'clock these nights before the sun leaves off warming the faces of the houses of Ledhury, nestling as it does on the west side of a range of hills which hecomes the Malverns. The town is at the eastern edge of Herefordshire, and this is the polite side of the Marches, which lean their shoulders westward to hold the lachrymose Welsh at some distance from the unfeeling English.

I link across at the town most nights when I'm in the county, I see the wooded hills, but can't make nut the town hall in which hangs the certificate that proves that a local prep school master, WH Auden, made a marriage of convenience (hers, not his). At the town's fringes there is a sprawl of quite pretty, but rather despised, new housing which has entired a Tesco to join the longer-serving Somerfield. As a town, it's no more inappropriate a place to host a poetry festival than any other.

Down the road at Dymock, Robert Frost persuaded the literary journeyman, Edward Thomas, to write the poems which have attracted people, without much startling them. ever since. They're not of the first rank, any more than are most of the works of the small

place at that time. But they have moved people, and have attracted a small industry of visitors and walkers. Last week there was a fine old row when it was found that one of the paths trod reverently for its literary associations had heen planted over by its farmer-owner.

Perhaps inspired by the worldliness of the monks whn taught him at Malvern, William Langland wrote Piers Plowman, his satire on the ways of the world and the church, notionally based on a dream begun in a field at Colwall, just up the road from Ledhury, A local ploughman writes self-deprecating doggerel there now, and starred in a warm-up for the festival after judging the town's famous ploughing match last autumn.

If longevity is anything to go by, Langland's poem is by far the most important thing to come out of the region. The nearest modern equivalent is the work of John Masefield, after whom was named the comprehensive whose

pupils are a big part of this week's festival.

Masefield did write about his childhood Ledbury. His Wonderings and The Land Workers are not a bit what you might expect from the country's leading maritime romancer. Long folio of poets who visited each other in that and grand, they speak of Ledbury's drunken-

ness, poverty and bigotry, and of human nastiness on a scale that makes you proud to be alive in our own milk-livered times, a hit over a century later. He celebrates a rustic town in which great things happened; he especially loved the horses towing logs through the streets. And he doesn't pretend to have suffered himself; he merely notes that even in so small a town, there was a quarter of unimaginable bleakness.

There remains some nastiness, though incest is famously more of a feature farther north in the county. The young of the town still hang about more or less as menacingly as Masefield describes, and in the picturesque cobbled lane he writes about, windows get broken by yobs much as they always did.

Oddly, the young leave the hanging haskets alone, even those which adorn the market hall, in whose lee a great street party will be held tonight. Why they should fail to target these hideously ehullient blooms, I can't say. I am tempted to down a few myself. Ledbury is only the worst of the towns round here for this sort of thing. The garages of Hercford are awash with them. You can't get into a pub without fighting past them. But in Ledbury's high street, there is a very special outburst of shout-

ing petals. They are offensively cheery, appallingly gay, violent in their perkiness.

This year, with any luck, Ledbury will win the region's round of the Britain in Bloom competition, instead of running-up as it did last time. The judging is set to coincide with this weekend's grand finale of the poetry festival, and only total success will allow the town to relax into something like subfuse for following summers. God knows what excesses failure might induce.

By the time you read this, the festival will have spread popular poetry all across the town. The organisers, by the way, have set their faces against the high-falutin', at least in the inaugural year. But there is just time to enter today's poetry reading competition, a minute precursor of which, in a local pub, was really the precursor to the present convulsions. And tomorrow, you can argue the toss with five wellknown poets, including Danny Abse, as they defend their favourite poem in a halloon debate. And those are just the bits of the weekend I'm chairing ...

The first annual Ledbury Poetry Festival runs until Sunday. Call 01531 634156 for details

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fith grouns of relief our neighbours yesterday returned to their normal midsummer tasks of making hay and silage. Yet all went back to work lit up by the success of the Countryside Rally, held in Hyde Park on Thursday.

It is too carry to gauge the political effect of this mass protest against the latest attempt to ban hunting with hounds; but nobody whn took part will ever forget the day the country went to town - or the sight of 100,000 people in hright shirts and dresses flooding the plain around the Reformer's Tree, or the waves of sound that rocked the plane trees as 100,000 voices swung into "D'ye ken John Peel?" and "Jerusalem".

The size of the crowd far exceeded the expectations of the organisers, the British Field Sports Nobody will

Society, who had hoped for ever forget 25.000. The fact that four the day the times as many people turned ont was largely due to the success of country came courage and to town independent countryside

marches. This grass-roots idea was conceived at least a year before the Labour party came to power, by Mark Miller Mundy, a photographer, and Chipps Mann, a farmer's wife, both from Gloucestershire. Neither is, or has ever been, a hunting person. Indeed, Mrs Mann declares herself "far too frightened ever to climb on to a borse". Nevertheless, both felt that the time had come for country people to stand up for their rights.

The plan was for marches starting from Scotland, the Lake District, Wales and Cornwall to converge on London, Small numbers of core marchers would go all the way; hundreds more would join them on daily slogs of about 20 miles.

Mrs Mann and her busband Charles turned one of their farm buildings into an office. Volunteers manned telephones, fax machines and photocopiers. As news of the plan spread, hundreds more



offered to house and feed the walkers as they came past, So, from a kitchen tabletop, and on a tiny budget, the

idea raced throughout the land. Marchers were told that, whatever provocation they might meet, they must conduct themselves "in a dignified and orderly way". At Calbook, in the Lake

District, 400 people rumed out. At Tavistock, in Devon, 700 well-wishers saw the West Country marchers off; at Stow-on-the-Wold 2,000

people crammed the square to salute walkers from Wales. As the marchers drew closer to London their dedication

attracted much

favourable publicity - with the antis conspicuous by their absence. The one place they showed in any strength was near Woodstock, where about 20 of them appeared, dressed in black from head to foot, to scream their ritual obscenities. The man who wound down his car window to speak to them was Mark Miller Mundy: when he said,

"Sorry, boys, you're last year's flavour", they were temporarily struck dumb. The BFSS naturally had many worries. One was that the antis would call false bomh scures on the Tube to disrupt the rally. Another was that the police might bun umbrelias, as potentially

offensive weapons. Yet on that glorious day all was sweetness and light. Marches and rally showed beyond reasonable argument that country folk are not the bloodthirsty monsters the antis claim: the qualities most in evidence were good humour, guts and compassion.

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FREE: Thai food dish

up to the value of £8



The Thai Food Festival, in association with the Royal Thai Embassy, the Tourism Authority of Thailand and Thai Airways, is in its third year and is being held on Sunday 13th July 1997 at Battersea Park.

The festival will be blessed at 10.30am by Buddhist Monks in the traditional Thai opening ceremony and officially opened at midday by the Thai Ambassador. There will be approximately 50

food stalls showcasing traditional Thai dishes, prepared on the spot by chefs from the finest Thai restaurants in London and beyond, where you will have the chance to taste a vast range of delectable Thai dishes. There will also be Thai Food stores at the festival supplying all the ingredients for a

Why not treat yourself to something exotic. Entrance is free.

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Pre-booking is essential. Please identify yourself as an independent diner when making the table reservation.

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o celebrate the Thai Food

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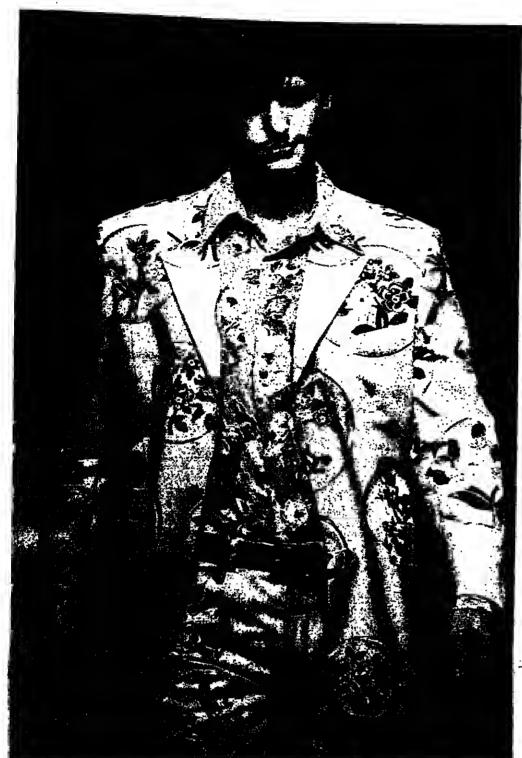
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Flamboyant? Paul Smith?

That's the only word to describe his latest, Jaggeresque collection. By Andy Zneimer



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'Fluid and flowing: the 'Aristocrat Delux' collection by Paul Smith (above centre) makes a hold move away from global fashion 'blandness'. The new look includes upholstery fabric suits (above) from £1,425; devoree velvet suits (top right) from £890; linen suits (middle right) from £639; and wool suits (bottom right) from £689

aul Smith's new mainline collection for spring/summer 1998 is both daring and both daring and dynamic. "Aristocrat Delux" represents a clear departure from his previous style and reflects Mr Smith's determination to couoter what be sees as an codemic slide into "blandness" io fashion.

As we sit and chat in his Covent Gardeo shop's loft-cumoffice, it quickly becomes apparent that Paul Smith, this hugely successful and self-effacing hastioo of British design, has a real bee in his bonnet: "Giorgio Armani proclaimed that fashion was dead last year. Joseph Ettedgui [the patron of the Joseph shaps] was quoted in an article in Happers & Queen saying bow fashioo companies are building ioto global brands, like Coca-Cola, leaving little room for creativity'. Well, I'm saying, yes, they're right, but what are we going to do about it? It's our jab to ebange it. Why can't large cor-porations make clothes that have individuality? It's not all about the bottom line, profit, shareholders. My new collection is virtually all hand-made and, for me, the style is eccentric and flamboyant. We've got to stay one step ahead or we're in danger of losing the plot. Not everyone will have liked my show in Paris last week hut I don't care. It's the point I'm making that

No matter where one is in the world, be it Milan. Paris, New York or London, the trend towards globalisation in fashion has never been greater. Paul Smith himself exports to 40 countries yet recognises the need

economie and creative pressure to satisfy the demands of diverse export markets and customer profiles. They are bound in part by factory production processes and economies of scale. It is those challenges that Paul Smith feels must be met and overcome if fashion is to remain dynamie

The past few years have been



very classical and minimalist." he continues enthusiastically, "I want to nudge my customers gently. There is an element of risk but I want to break the rules. The new collection uses many more 'liquid' fahrics with what we call more drape.

"The trend has been for more shiny, stiff materials. Very sharp - Kray twins. This collection is much more fluid and flowing with a matt, dry effect.

"The suit silhouerte is no longer Paul Weller, slim-fit; that retro-Gucci, flat-front trouser look. It's more haggy. The key is that every item is hand-stitched, making the garments look distinctly different. There are real silk linings, hand-stitched inside with coloured piping all around. Pink this side, blue that side. No one garment is the same as the next. We've created a bespoke feel to what are readyto-wear garments. I've added a to remain at the creative cutting special line in the factory where every item is hand-worked. The just shows that there is room for individuality in fashion."

When I ask what are the cultural reference- points that inspired "Aristocrat Delux", Paul Smith refers to Mick Jagger's sumptuous attire in the seminal Sixties film, Performance. The collection has that eccentrie, over-the-top, vaguely feminine I'm baving a go."

edge to it with its flamboyant dévorée velvet suits and dressing gowns, hand-embroidered, flower-patterned shirts and decadent bright velvet shoes. "Visu-ally it's kind of where Peter O Toole and Brian Epstein meet Jean Cocteau and Cecil Beaton, he explains. "It bas that confident, rather snobbish, straightbacked feel to it. We used freshfaced, geouine young aristocrats to model the collection and asked them to 'posture' more than usual. There was more hair around than we have seen recently. I wanted to move away from that elean-cut look." Today, Paul Smith has seven

shops in London, one in New York, one in Paris, five in Hong Kong, one in Singapore, Bangkok, Taipei and Korea, the original shop in Nnttingham, a new outlet in Manchester and 162 shops in Japan. Paul Smith Limited licenses a Japanese trading house, Itochu, to manufacture, wholesale and retail the Paul Smith collection. The shops are replicas of the shops in England, entire wooden interiors having heen shipped out. The staff undergo the same training and Paul Smith himself remains immersed in the operation, designing the clothes, choosing the fabrics, approving the shop locations and overseeing all key developments.

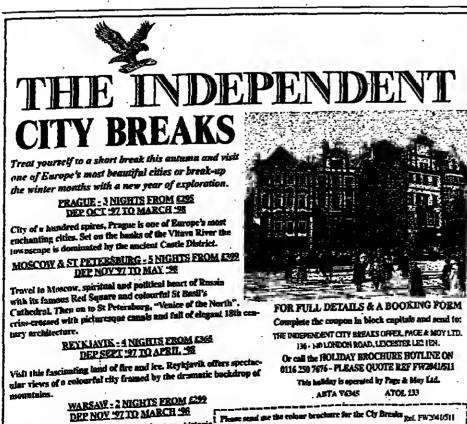
He is the chairman and prineipal designer, an almost unique position in the industry, allowing him to retain a personal touch often missing in similar sized operations. The annual turnover of the wholesale, retail and licensed business is £142m. This is a "global" company with a creative outlook.

"Some critics will have missed the point," he sighs. "In a way, with mother-of-pearl huttons. It of designers have been talking about change and the need for it. But they haven't worked out how to do it. This collection is more extreme than anything I've done for a long while. I want to oudge people to think about ehange and individuality. I've just become so bored. People should be a lot braver. At least



Retail theatre makes a stylish comeback

Forget wind-swept shopping parks and drab supermarkets. The department store, with all its glitz and glamour. is enjoying a renaissance in fortune. By Debbie Davies



autiful kaleidoscope of fine architecture, hist

A DEMUNITAL EDISTRICT OF UNITED STATES AND COLOREST AND C

department stores of the developers benefits of publicity. ochare for the Cly Bresics Ref. FW3/4//511 Seed to THE INDEPENDENT CITY BREAKS OFFER, PAGE & MOY LTD. 130 - 140 LONDON ROAD, LEICESTER LET 1EN. Paris Opéra than their street financial performance. the

consumption reached new heights when shopping met Hollywood glamour and Daryl Hanoah arrived on a hlack horse to open Harrods' summer sale, sampling jewellery that, even after a 50 per cent reduction. was still priced at £330,000. The sale, which started oo Wednesday, is expected to attract 200,000 shoppers to

spend about £14m. Harrods' performance underlioes the recaissance in the fortunes of department stores, many of which suffered a shaky

There was a time when they were unassailable for luxury and exclusivity. And they have always bad that sense of glamour so happily added to by Ms Hannah, star of Rozanne and Splash. Indeed, department stores have a pedigree when it comes to this sort of retail theatre. Back in 1919, Galeries Lafayette, the Harvey Niehols of Paris, offered 25,000 francs to the retailing. first pilot who managed to land on the roof of the store. Vendrines.

Department stores can trace their roots hack to the new shopping centres? theatrical world of Paris in such as Le Bon Marché, Lafayette opened their doors as fundamental to the to an Art Nouveau-inspired sector's re-emergence. world of stained glass domes, sweeping staircases, grand atria and gilded ironwork. Architecturally they had more in common with the

copied around the world. From GUM, the state department stores work best department store in Moscow, they to Carson Pirie Scott in generated Chicago, department stores came to look more like civic. even royal, buildings than

In their grand setting, Parisian department stores were the first to offer goods clearly marked with fixed Exchanging and refunding mooey on returned goods were other department store firsts, as were January sales, and clothes copied from those wom by the most fashiooable and made available 48 bours later.

This historical baggage was until recently bad news. City analysts had for years written off department stores, which they regarded as "retail dinosaurs" weighed down by their architecture. But then Corporate Intelligence, the retail analyst, reported the sector achieving 10 per cent growth in sales last year, making it the fastest growing sector in

If the department store is dead, why was Harvey Nichols forced by sheer through the railings rather distinguished First World numbers of customers War flier, obliged, and the repeatedly to close the doors resulting media coverage was at its new 45,000 sq ft Leeds sufficient to persuade store; and why are property department essential "anchors" for their

Corporate Intelligence the mid-1850s when stores cites the huge sums poured into refurbishing buildings Printemps and Galeries that had fallen into disrepair, Selfridges, for example, has spent £65m remodelling its store in Oxford Street, Loodon, an investment that Corporate Intelligence says retail parks, with the scale, lies behind an improving

David Elliott, Selfridges retail director, agrees that

research focus groups about department stores is tremeodous," he says. It is the scale as well as the style of a store such as Selfridges that allows it to stage under one roof grottoes, radio broadcasts, fashion shows and food demonstrations. Mr Elliott says that the mix of activities creates a type of shopping far removed from commodities such as food.

Galeries Lafayette, always a delightful place to shop. works on the same principle. The store knows from its research that the buying habits of its customers are influenced more by attitude and behaviour than by conventional socio-economic factors such as age and income. Of course, that explains why a teenager with least amount of disposable income shows greatest loyalty to premium hrands, while a millionaire may choose to watch cricket than pay the entrance charge. What we spend has more to do with mood and attitude than with our bank balance; and department

us in the mood. The sector, according to Corporate Intelligence, has proved peculiarly adaptable over the past 150 years. Tremendous ehanges have occurred in retailing since department stores were invented. Nowadays there are shopping centres, discount significantly, out-of-town product mix and economics

threaten

stores are all about putting



Galeries Lafavette: success can be attributed to its elegance and detailed market research service, and a family member

stores. Yet they have turned to their advantage the very lack of overheads that come with out-of-town sheds. Toys R Us and the like put up Meccano frame buildings almost overnight, in the style of the market stall holder. By comparison. department stores continue to plough millions into buildings created a century or more ago by craftsmen and architects such as Majorette. Sullivan and Tiffany.

Undoubtedly, car parking and breadth of product mix have won big market share for out-of-town retaiters, but Thames,

year and look set to outperform the general retait market again in 1997. And they stand to benefit further from rising numbers of older most loyal department store

as chairman of its club for

Corporate Intelligence

estimates department stores

accounted for 3.8 per cent of

retail sales in the UK last

retired employees?

shoppers. As Steve Davies. author of the Corporate Intelligence report, says. "Having gambled and invested heavily in their few would deny that their stores in the Eighties and sheds lack soul. Is there an early Nineties, when the out-of-town retailer like future of department stores Bentalls, of Kingston-on- looked very shaky indeed, a family-run the major players are now in department store which has a position to reap the staff of 25, 40, even 50 years' rewards of their foresight."

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1 Hand-woven silk scarves by 8nbbie Kociejowski cost £75 to

£85. She also makes hand-dyed

shawls, men's ties and fabric for

jackets in silk or silk/linen. For indi-

vidual commissions, call 0181

2 These hand-painted bone china cups and saucers are designed by Clare Foster and Philip Gearing, who specialise in brightly coloured ceramic tableware, tiles and clocks. The cups and saucers cost £19 each and the teapots £36.

3 This elegant £2,400 cowhide love-seat has been crafted by Angus Ross, who creates limitededition furniture. Commissions taken on 01491 613749.

Commissions taken on 01303

4 Alison Richards makes striking jewellery with 18ct gold, silver and a range of precinus stones. These elegant earnings, fashioned with silver and precious stones, cost £195. Individual commissions are available on 0171-267 4881.

5 Will Levi Marshall makes dishes, candelabra, stools, jardinières and pottery bowls like this one, which costs £120. Commissions can be taken on 01556 640399.

Janet Knight





Under the counter

with Lindsay Calder

othing makes you appreciate home more than being away from it. I have met several travellers who, after spending months abroad, agree that the one thing they have learnt while broadening their horizons is bow much they value the old green and pleasant land. You can understand the language, and more importantly the humour, buy your undies from Marks and Spencer, and are never more than a few yards away from a pint and a curry. Personally, it was Britain's porcelain I missed during my recent foray to foreign parts not Wedgwood or Royal Doulton, but a much more important maker: Armitage Shanks. You can't beat Blighty

when it comes to bogs.
You only need to shoot three hours across to Paris to see what's wrong with Europe: go into any little bar-tabac, say in the 7th arrondissement (which is a smart district), visit les toilenes and bang, there it is, at your feet, the bole in the floor, aka the elephant's foot. I spent four months in a flat in Paris, with a view of the Eiffel tower, which sounds very glamorous until you needed to visit my salle de bain with its very own pied d'éléphant. Boy, did it improve my skiing

Travel guidebooks dedicate whole sections to the art of defecating in a foreign country. In Turkey we are told not to expect Andrex, but a "spigot and can on the floor nearby, or, much more conveniently, a little copper tube snaking up the back to the spot where it's needed". I supprise this could double up as

House & Home

colonic irrigation if you were agile and handy with pipes. There is no doubt that the countries benefiting from the hard currency of tourism are also benefiting from a by-product of tourism - diarrhoea - or, as it is more politely described. traveller's tummy. While travelling with my turnmy in India. I arrived in Pushkar and instead of being greeted by locals with interesting ethnic crafts for sale, I was not by a flock of little boys chanting "Toilet paper! Toilet paper! Toilet paper!" as they waved the rolls above their heads like foothall

elephant's foot that looked like the clephant had just used it. Anyway, since I have been back on my own patch I have been visiting my own powder room with a vengeance, smiling down at the old wooden seat and sparkling white bowl, and feeling contented when I pull the chain and hear that familiar flush. I never knew sanitary ware could give so much pleasure to a girl.

banners. It was also in Pushkar

that I was confronted with an

King johns: The National Liberal Club, I Whitehall Place, London SWI, has a jocker's weighing scale outside the loos, so you can decide if you deserve that plum duff; The Ladies at the ballroom of the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London WI, has individual hand towels and lots of mirrors.

Hell holes: The loo in 'Trainspotting by Irvine Welsh, p24: Belgo Ccutral restaurous. Eurlham Street, London WC2 (100 much metal, semi-unisex and extremely confusing).

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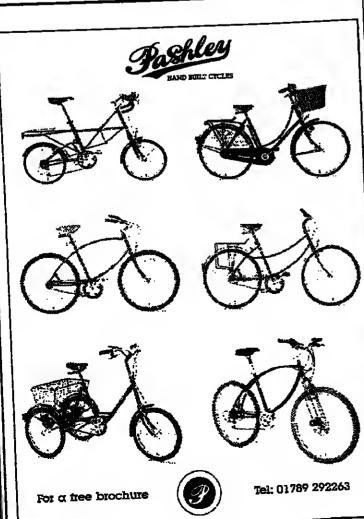
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Blurring the topless boundary

onvertible, cabriolet, roadster ... what does it all mean? When is an open-top car one of these and not another? Well. Renault's new Megane Cahriolet does nothing to ease the confusion, not least because its most interesting version is called a Mégane Cabriolet 16V Roadster.

The new Renault is not, strictly speaking, a cabriolet because a cabriolet is meant to have some superstructure left in place when the roof is folded down. It's really a convertible. And

A roadster is a racy open two-seater, and this is where the Megane gets rather intriguing. That's because you can huy it with a "Roadbox" to slot in place of the rear seat, painted in the colour of the bodywork and sporting a pair of racy-looking fairings which smooth the shapes of the front seats' headrests into the rear deck. via the hood cover. Result: a two-scater sports car, of sorts, with a very big boot and an extra access batch that is automatically wired into the

central-locking system.

Never has the boundary between hatchbackbased convertible and sports car been so blurred. Except that unlike convertible versions of Golfs and Escorts, for example, the Renault - hull, like those two rivals, by the German specialist body-builder Karmann – is based on a short coupé instead of a regular-length hatchback. This is possible because the Mégane range is rather broader than that of most mainstream cars; its core hatchback model is sup-

and the new convertible. but also by a saloon

ROAD TEST Renault Mégane

By John Simister

Never before has one understructure spawned such a wide variety of variants. They all have the same dashboard, too, give or take

We're looking at an innovative car from an innovative family, then. But is it any good? It is, largely.

You can have it with a gentle 1.6-litre engine, but the 2.0-litre, 150bhp 16-valve unit makes it much more fun. This is a strong-pulling, free-revving motor able to tug the Mégane along in fine sports car style, never mind that, unlike tra-ditional sports cars, this one is tugged by its front wheels. But then, so are the Alfa

Spider and the Fiat Barchetta, and so

was the now-deceased Lotus Elan. But

those boundaries are

Mégane is as rigid as one with a roof, hut it doesn't feel that way. Bumps generate a struc- a price worth paying for the sleek looks and tural shudder of a type rare in true sports cars an unohstructed view aft.

Prices start at £15,340 for the 1.6 version feels as though it's taking up slack hefore getting on with the job of pointing the car into a bend. Nor are the major controls honed for driving pleasure; the clutch is abrupt, and the brakes stand the Mégane on its nose if you so much as tickle the pedal.

The convertible part is good, though. The hood – electric in the 2.0 – looks very neat when in place, fitting snugly round the side windows' tidy curves, and it folds away auto-matically under a hinged cover whose twin fairings echo the shape of the rear scat's headrests or blend into the Roadbox, depending make the grade. Full marks to Renault for on your Renault's chosen role. There's a price to pay for the hood's disappearing trick.

blurring again. There is a flaw in the sports car because the rear window has to be made of mirror, though. Renault claims the roofless flexible plastic. This means that there is scope flexible plastie. This means that there is scope for scratches and no demisting facility, but it's

with do-it-yourself hood erection, through to £21.515 for a 2.0 with the Roadbox and an "Executive Pack", which includes leather trim, air-conditioning and a CD player. Strangely, there isn't a single price for the Roadbox, Renault preferring instead to list the cars so equipped as distinct models. Do the sums. though, and it amounts to £785 for a basic 1.6 and £875 for a 2.0.

Judged as a convertible, the Megane scores through versatility and the cutest looks in the class. Judged as a sports car, it doesn't quite personality-splitting originality, though.



n the vast and daft lexicon of motoring expressions, none is stupider than "people earrier". After all, apart from a single-scater Formula One racing car (a "person carrier"), all cars are people carriers.

What sets the "people carrier", sometimes known as the "Multi-Purpose Vehicle" or "MPV" (another daft one: which car is a single purpose vehicle?) apart from conventional ears is that, in the main,



they can carry more people. A Renault Espace or a Ford Galaxy can carry seven, as long as they have no luggage. A Peugeot 806 or Fiat Ulysse can carry eight. More of a distinction, perhaps, is that people carriers are universally "one box". Thus the French, who call them

monospaces, probably do the best job of branding them. The French, after all, invented them - in 1984, with the Renault Espace, MPVs are now growing in popularity through Europe, North America and Japan. They are a good and sensible type of vehicle. Who can

argue with the concept of devoting most of the fore-aft length of a car to people, rather than to an engine or a usually empty boot? None is perfect, of course, or even close. They boast versatility in their seating arrangements. But will someone please invent a people carrier that has lift-out seats

someone please invent a people earner that has introduse as that are light and easy to extract? Thus far, no one has. As it happens. I've driven just about all the major MPVs in the past month or so. The one I liked hest was the new Renault Espace, follow-up to the vehicle that begat the hreed. It is quite the most cleverly conceived and most versatile of all MPVs. All the seats are fore-aft adjustable they swivel and fold and come out - and the new Espace is big enough, seven-up, to be comfortable and roomy.
Unlike most MPV makers, who try to make their prod-

ueis as car-like as possible so as not to scare off apostates moving away from conventional cars. Renault accepts that this is a new breed of vehicle that needs new solutions. While most MPVs have car-like dashboards - big, ugly planks of plastie - the Espace has a low, handsome fascia (swathed in fahrie) containing a vast, lockable carrying compartment and a few small digital instruments. Switches are on satellites either side of the steering wheel, exactly where they should be. The low fascia greatly enhances visibility, and makes for a more pleasant driving environment.

I also enjoyed the Ford Galaxy. Along with its VW Sha-

ran twin, it is easily the nicest lo drive. It feels almost like a sports car at times, and is well made. But, as with many people carriers, I find the rear seats uncomfortable. In order to optimise leg-room for seven people on a vehicle the same length as a Mondco, the bottom seal cusbions are too short. The upshot is discomfort for adults on long journeys.

The Chrysler Grand Voyager that I used for a week cer-tainly looked good, and loped along in that long-legged. Big Country American way. But it sucked through fuel, like a truck, and my rear passengers complained of car sickness owing to the roly-poly handling. That the rear windows can-not be properly opened did not help their queasiness.

I liked the Toyota Picnic – marketed by Toyota as half-

ay between car and people carrier. It ce a decent car, and you don't sit as high as in a normal MPV. Some people will like this; others, who enjoy the tofty driving position, will not. Still, the Picnic was nothing special.

The most surprisingly good MPV of the bunch was probably the Fiat Ulysse turbodiesel. It looks about as interesting as a cardboard box: a modern, bland, van-like thing. Butthere is such a pleasing unpretentiousness about it. It handles well, rides well, seems well made, is economical, and goes about its task in a no-nonsense way. It was refreshing to drive a car that has no trumped-up advertising-led image and doesn't pretend to be aggressive/sexy/individual/superior/fiery/sporty/caring or in any way anthropomorphic. It is just a vehicle, no more or less, it carries a lot of people,

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Alfa Romeo Spider, £23,033; More of a sports car, though front-wheel-drive like the Renault. Similar pace and structural flexibility, easier to drive smoothly, gorgeous looks, strictly a two-seater. Styled by Pininfarina.

not as fast but more satisfying on a twisty mad. Extra £1115 buys the Roadster version, which has a removable hardtop as well as the regular hood. Styled and built by Pininfarina. Vauxhall Astra 1.8 16V Convertible, £18,640: Based on an Astra saloon, and nearing the and of its life now that the solid-rooted Astra range is about to be replaced. Roomier than the Renault, but stodgy to drive. Built by Bertone. Volkswagen Golf Cabrio Avantgarde, £18,950: Has the 115bhp engine from the Golf GTI, and the stiffest, most shudder-free structure of any hatchback-based convertible. With the hood

up, you could just as well be in a GTI. Built by Karmann.

RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET 16v

Peugeot 306 Cabriolet, £20125: Longer than the Renault,

Another entry in Citroën's

itroën has unveiled its new small-tomedium hatchback, which replaces the popular, good-to-drive but dull-looking ZX. Called the Xsara, it is a handsome if totally conventional five- and three-door hatchback. Those looking for a resurrection of

Englishman, Giles Taylor. The Xsara was his first job. "I'd just left the Royal College of Art in London, and was head-hunted by Citroen in Paris," he says. "When I arrived, work bad just begun on the Xsara programme. I was one of a number of designers who did sketches. Mine

Taylor then oversaw the car's exterior



the bigger Xantia as his role model. This Xan- the new corporate style of Citroën. The cabin, tia look - with its pointed nose, balf-notch hatchhack tail and wide rear - is likely to be which is also highly conservative, is the work of the Italian design house Bertone. The Xsara

will get its first public airing at the Frankfurt Show in September. It goes on sale in Britain

X files

bold Cirroën styling will be disappointed.

The car has been designed by a 29-year-old

was the look that was adopted."

styling through to production. He says he used

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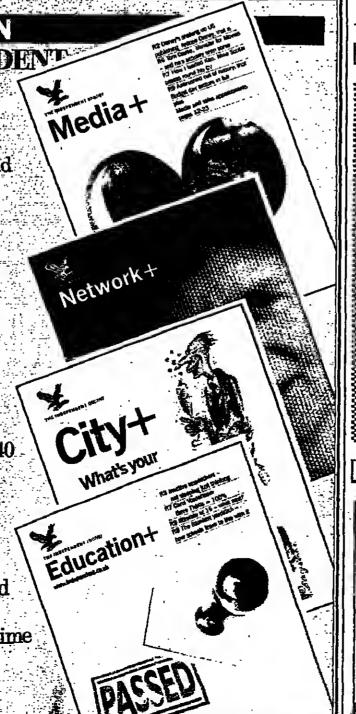
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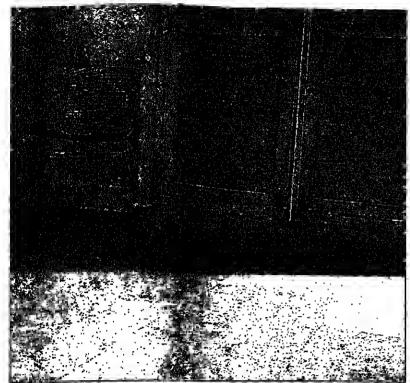
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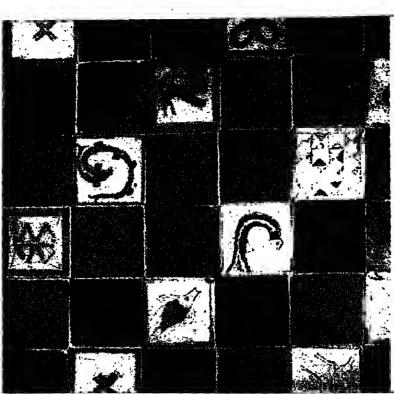
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From ancient Jerusalem flagstones to Moorish mosaics... Rosalind Russell on the latest in couture flooring



Grounds for artistry

vate houses to reclaim old flagstones. Polished by generations of soft-slippered feet, they've become the latest musthave floor tiles in the expensively interior-designed homes of England's green and pleasant land. Who wants lino wheo you can have history at your feet for £310 a square metre, plus VAT? Paris Ceramics is just one of the companies offering the Jerusalem Stone.

Attica, which sells in London through Selfridges' new Floor Coverings Library, calls its version Biblical Stooe. This costs £260 a square metre, plus VAT. There are no restrictions on exporting the old stone as it doesn't come from protected areas and most is salvaged from demolition sites. It's all very Old Testament - and top-of-the-market house buyers love it. Designer floors can even tip the balance between choosing a new house over a period one, according to estate agents.

"High specification like attractive

ondon-based flooring firms bave heen rummaging around in Jerusalem's redundaot public huildings, courtyards and pri-huildings, courtyards and pri-huildings and pri-huildings and pri-huildings around in the courty are seen as a period flooring, used by builders, means new homes are oow as popular as period homes." Says "There has been a dramatic erosion of the social stigma attached to huying a oew bouse. They are a good investment because they are easier to re-sell."

Paris Ceramics - owned and run by Charlie Smallbone, the founder of Smallbone Kitchens - will design and make a one-off floor for clieots with their own ideas and uolimited cash. Ooe receot commission was to replicate the ceramic floor in the Pope's Bedroom, a room in the medieval Palace of the Popes in Avignoo in France. Ceramic artist Alex Zdan-kowicz recreated the floor, working from photographs, and installed it in eight weeks, start to finish.

Zdankowicz also developed the Moorish Mosaic, based on a Moroccan most expensive. Basilica, based on 16th-century Italian roof tiles made for the Chapel of Bartolomeo Lombardini



in the church of San Francisco at Forli (a section of which is in the V&A) is so complicated, Paris Ceramics declines to quote a price, except to the client.

There is, it has to be admitted, a cerantique design, which is made to order tain amount of enviable swank in being at £450 a square metre. It's not eveo its able to point to your bathroom floor and admit it cost as much as a new Range Rover. One thirtysomething City broker speot more than £20,000

History at your feet: Attica's Biblical Stone (left) which comes from Jerusalem; Paris Ceramics' Papal Floor (above) and French Vix Blue Limestone (above left) – which they say dates from the Jurassic period

glittering with discreet flecks of trace elements and coloured mineral deposits, brought from India. It hardly made a dent in his annual bonus, but it impressed his new American in-laws.

Cher and Bob Geldof are fans of Attica, whose limestone flooring, quar-ried in the north of England, has genuine fossil impressions of animal skeletons and shells. It costs £160 per square metre, plus VAT Not to be outdone, Paris Ceram-Cotswold stone and the French Vix Blue - date from the Jurassic period ... though Richard Attenborough's foot-print has yet to be found in either.

a wooden floor as a main architectural feature in a house. He installed a school. Junckers, whose clients have ur Harrogate 01423 523877: Attica also included Richard Branson, Ruby 0171-738 1234

on a kitchen floor made of quartzite Wax and the Queen, was originally founded to produce sleepers for the Danish National Railway but is now ooe of the names - like Neff. Aga or Bosch - which estate agents like to

drop in house particulars.

The company has just launched a new wide-board oak floor, like those in period houses. It's supplied unfinished to allow for choice of treatments, including oiling, waxing or liming. The floor is laid using the quick clip system, which ics says a couple of its limestone floors means it can be laid over an existing floor -even tiles - as loog as it's dry and even. The Smm range in solid beech, oak or ash is no thicker than a normal carpet, so there will be minimum changes to Architects such as Brian Ma Siy list doorway and skirting board. Prices start wooden floor as a main architectural at under £38 per square metre.

Junckers solid beech floor in his own Fur stockists of Junckers call 01376 loft apartmeot in a converted Victorian 517512; Paris Ceranucs 0171-371 7778,

Three on view

Foxy properties

Compton Valence House, near Dorchester in Dorset. was lived in by Parson Milne, the hunting parsoo who



was Master of Carristock Hounds from 1900 to 1931, long before the sport became contentious. The six-hedroom former rectory has four reception rooms, a kitchen with an Aga, and 111 acres to gallop about in. It is for sale at £750,000 through Michael de Pelet (01935 812236).



Foxhill House, near Bourton-on-the-Water in Gloucestershire, lies within the Heythrop hunt country, and it is also handy for the races at Cheltenham. The five-hedroom Cotswold stone house was built in 1925, with a few later additions, and has attractive, stone mullioned wiodows. The property comes with a selfcontained flat above the garage – and three loose boxes. It is priced at £375,000, through Knight Frank (01865 790077).

Foxhole House, near Saxlingham in Norfolk. is a 16thcentury Grade II listed farmhouse in need of restoration.



bedroom house, eight miles from Norwich, lies down a single-track road a mile and a half from the village, It has leaded windows, exposed beams and studs, but, say agents Strutt & Parker, needs extensive work. It has mains water and electricity and septic tank drainage, and comes with a third of an acre, two loose boxes and a tack room, £125,000 (01603 619945).

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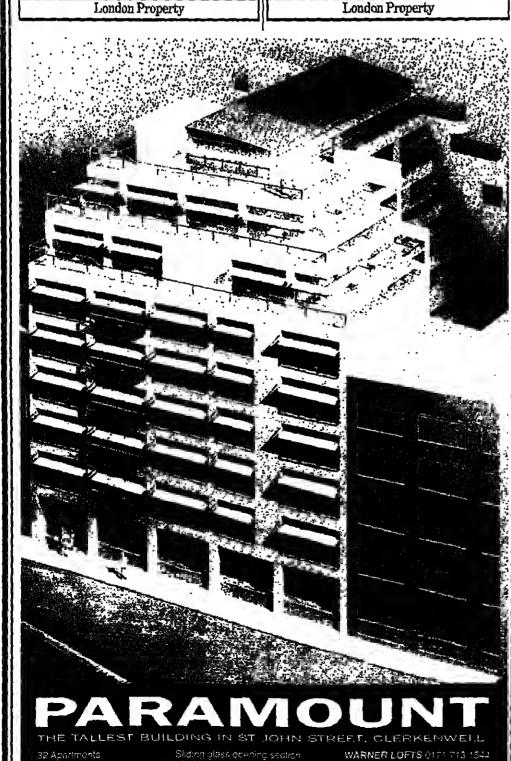
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The Cheltenham based company charges sellers £85 up front to register and a fee nn

completion of £300 if a sale is agreed in the first eight weeks, or £150 if it takes longer.

Retired civil servant Christine says "My house had been on the market for ages with a local agent, and although a number of people viewed none of them made an offer, so I joined the register. It seemed very reasonable and they guarantee to refund the registration fee if they don't find you a prospective huyer."

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system that introduces you to genuine buyers from all over the country and abroad. And as a widow I particularly like the idea of climinating time wasters."

"It was like joining a dating agency for houses" says Christine "As soon as I joined they matched me up with buvers looking for my type of house and on the 11th day I had an offer which I accepted. Because it was within eight weeks I paid a completion fee of £300 in addition to the registration fee.

addition to the registration fee, making a total cost to me of £385-but that was compured to agents fees of 2% plus VAT, so I'm absolutely delighted. I am recommending the National Property register to anyone I know who is selling their home." The company place a free advert



newspaper and continually match the property against new buyers joining daily. They send individual property details to matching buyer worldwide.

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Commission impossible

Penny Jackson meets three home owners selling without agents

y telling someone who has sold a house within days that the commission paid to the estate ageot has been hard earned. Sending round a few keen buyers at the top of a waiting list is an easy way to earn a few thousand pounds, they argue, and promise themselves that next time they will sell without an

Faced with the reality of selling privately, most people find the prospect pretty daunting – though there are more than a few who do go it alooe. Tempted by a market such as the present one, where prices are fuelled by a shortage of good properties, owners who believe they have a saleable home feel they have nothing to lose. Obvi-ously, agents would point out that vendors have a great deal to lose. They explain that skill is needed in today's market; that they earn their 2 per cent or so because a private seller cannot really know the ins and outs of an area. He doesn't have an idea of how many people might be interested and so is unlikely to be able to squeeze that bit extra out of the buyers. Not only that, they say, it's the agent who takes the flak when things go wrong.

So how easy is it for the private vendor? At random, we selected a variety of houses being advertised privately and asked the owners how well the

e nad

Neil Marshall has a pretty Edwardian terrace house in Barnes, west London. Jobwise, he has time on his hands and - a commoo factor among those we spoke to - no urgent oeed to sell. Within a week of advertising, 11 couples have viewed the house. "I thought I would just test the water and I am amazed at the amount of interest so far. We did put it oo a hit high to begin with - not that people batted an eyelid - but have come down oow from £310,000 to £300,000. Most of those



to expect. We've dooe a lot to the house, such as putting in a wooden floor in the kitchen and an Aga, and opening up the fireplaces, so we'd like get something back for that

"I'm really enjoying selling it myself and I suppose that's because I know I can. If the house had a problem - such as being oo a main road - I would have put it with an agent, but why pay a fee for oo reason? I haven't had a firm offer yet, though a lot of people have £310,000 to £300,000. Most of those tested me. I think they are quite the Blue Lagoon, a good-sized gardeo £450,000 and I know a similar property looking know the area and know what shocked by how straightforward I have leading down to the water. It has sold for more than that. I also found

been. Agents tend to keep pushing the price up, whereas I'm happy with the price we're asking. As soon as I accept an offer that will be that, It might be nice to get a few extra thousand pounds, but it would leave a bad taste

in my mouth to let someooe down." In Dorset, Julian Wiseman is selling his Thirties harbourside family house in Poole. These properties are in limited supply, and it is a marketing dream; five bedrooms, overlooking been advertised in the local and national press over the past month and a haif, and yet the response has been as an agent's - since we did them on a word processor. I didn't use an agent because it was a hughear with me that when we first approached them they would not give us a clear-cut valuation. They were very keen to market our house for us but, I felt, at too low a price. Ours is oo the market at

Should you choose to accept it... Neil Marshall is confident he can sell his house in Barnes without paying agency fees PHOTOGRAPH: ADRIAN DENNIS

it irritating that they would not be flex-

ible on fees.
"It certainly hasn't been exhausting. I've sent out particulars in about 30 people and some half-a-dozen have looked around. Unless we get an offer soon. I think we will end up using an agent, hut I felt it was worth giving a private sale a shot."

Unlike these two first-timers, Hans Phillips found selling his house in the London area such a straightforward exercise he is about in do it again. At the end of the Eighties, in a market not dissimilar to the present one, he sold his house so quickly that he was able to cancel the third advertisement. "I arrived at my own figure after agents came io to give their estimates. I took into account their fees in the range of 1.5 to 2 per cent. Among the first four or five calls, two sounded very hopeful and, in fact, one of them turned out to be the eventual huyer. We negotiated on the day they came around. I got 99 per cent of my

"I felt, and still feel, that estate agents get mnney for old rope - I made a saving of about £5,000. It was a very saleable property and we got the poor. "Our details are oot as enticing wording just right to make it seem desirable. Of course, at the time we sold the property market was on the crest of a wave. Even so we were elated at the speed and ease of the sale and had to make a mad dash to buy somewhere else. This time it should be even easier, as we will be downgrading and will be happy to rent for a while if necessary. Everyone should

For what it's worth

imagination of the super-wealthy can still be fired by an unusual scheme. The chance to buy an apartment on a giant cruise liner has kept the phones at Savilis, the estate agents marketing the project, ringing non-strip since the press launch this week. Within hours inquiries were coming in about plans to build the World of ResidenSea, a luxurious floating apartment block where prices will start at £800,000, rising to £3.5m, Crucial questions have ranged from "Can 1 bring my cat?" (out of the question) to "Is it possible to knock three

apartments into one?" (quite feasible). For those who like to look beyond the millennium - the date set for the liner's completion - and for whom travelling the world is an everyday affair, excitement can be found in strange places. The Norwegian company behind the scheme has had one request from someone who wants the experience of staying on board when the ship goes into dry dock.

Even though it is generally agreed that the Budget was a breeze for the property market, and that the extra stamp duty is affordable, not everyone will pay it willingly. Fixtures and fittings are a perfectly legal way of making it less painful, Estate agents predict an increase in the number of buyers taking nut of the

offer price the value of such things as carpets, curtains and fridges. For instance, the £250,000 figure triggers stamp duty of 1.5 per cent, so if the vendor agrees that a house selling for £256,000 has fittings worth £8,000, the house could sell for £248,000, the outstanding amount being for asked for the fixtures. It is a good saving, given that a £250,000 house now has an extra £1,250 charge.

For anyone thinking of

becoming a do-it-yourselt

tenant or landlord. the Bhich? Guide to Renting and Letting has produced a new tenancy agreement. The author of the latest version of the guide, and of the agreement, Peter Wilde, hopes that it will give a solid, working base to the many people who rent or let privately, on llimsy terms and without agents. It is written clearly, without confusing legal jargon. Since the Housing Act 1946 came into force, all tenancies have been assured shorthold, whether they say they are or not. The agreement, says The Consumers Association, is even-handed and covers all the key issues, clearly defining each party's obligations, It will need adapting to particular properties. The agreement is free with copies of the Ginde or separately for £1 from Subscriptions Dept. Consumers Association. PO Box 44. Hertford X.

Penny Jackson

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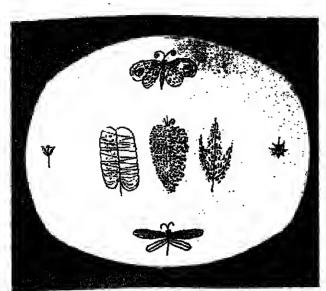
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Beale Dobie

Collect to invest: John Windsor follows the fortunes of a dealer noted for spotting potential treasure years ahead of its time

n easy way to succeed as a collectorinvestor is to follow the London dealer stood shoulder to shoulder in his gallery io Kensington Church Street, juggling cham-pagne glasses, as he launched his 30th combined selling exhibition and book; this time -Midwinter tableware.

probably old enough to remember it. It's those cheap and cheerful Staffordshire crocks with spindly motifs that passed for modern art in the Fifties and Sixties. Do not mock, Lord Queensberry and Sir Hugh Casson designed some of them, as did Terence Conran when fresh out

of art college.

A 1955 six-setting Nature Study dinner service by Conran, with wiry dragonflies and leaves, was snapped up at the opening for £1,200. When I told Sir Terence, he thought for a bit, then said: "In my opinion that's considerably more than it's worth."

But who dares to doubt the eye of the dealerpublisher who co-discovered the Victorian silver designer Christopher Dresser and held a sensational sell-out exhibition of his wares back in 1972, who hoarded grotesque turn-of-thecentury Martinware birds that can now sell at auction for over £40,000, and who sold his pioneering collection of corkscrews for £107,000 at Christie's South Kensington last year?

It takes Mr Dennis, 60, up to 10 years to quierly amass a saleable stock of some unsung collectable - lately, mostly pottery - whose time, he judges, is about to come. While building his stock, he will have bumped into a knowledgeable collector capable of writing a definitive guide book cataloguing for the first time Poole pottery or Royal Doulton stoneware, children's china or Whitefriars glass.

Theo suddenly the champagne corks pop, hitherto unconsidered trifles jump out of junk shops and into collectors' display cabinets and prices at auction surge. The scrums at Mr Denois's openiogs are all the more intense because collector-investors are given the chance to snap up the pieces photographed in the guide book. Unheatable provenance.
Richard Midwinter, soo of Roy Midwinter,

who controlled the crockery company from the late Fifties until his death in 1990, remarked at this week's opening: "My father wasn't interested in people buying to collect. He just wanted them to live with a design for two or three years then pass on to the next."

His mother, Eve, added: "I used to warn our designers, 'Don't get too precious - this is the kind of crockery that husbands throw across the kitchen if dinoer's late'."

But Magnus, Mr Dennis's 24-year-old son, had a different tale. He remembered since the Richard Dennis. He always gets it age of 10 playing under the whitewashed right. This week, those in the know arches of his family's cellar, near his father's publishing house in a disused village church in Somerset, trying to avoid toppling the lovingly hoarded stacks of Riviera and Cannes tableware designed for Midwinter by Sir Hugh Casson in 1954 and 1960. Single dinner plates by Never heard of it? You will. And you are Cassoo start at £40 and one with a rare shape

sold at the opening for £300.

What next for the Dennis treatment? I can whisper that in September it will be Denbigh ware, "the most successful British ceramic company of the Nineoes-technically wizard", complete with up-to-date guide.

Then, you would oever guess, jigsaw puzzles. Especially wooden ones from between 1900 and 1950. Mr Dennis has "a few hundred stashed away". Raid your grandmother's cupboards immediately.

After Christmas: crockery bearing designs by the whimsical Fifties and Sixties Freoch cartoonist Peynet - the little scarecrow-like lovers with pageboy haircuts, he with a bowler, she with a bouquet. "They're amusing," says Mr Dennis. "They say something to me." More-over, the Japanese are fanatical about Peynet - they have devoted a museum and erected a statue to him in Tokyo. Mr Dennis has collected 200 different Peynet designs and models in a

The origin of his unerring eye? His early days in the Fifties, running a bric-a-brac stall io Bermondsey market: Wheo people have only pennies to spend, you soon find out what they like." He spent 1966 touring Mexico and South America, snapping up mid-19th ceotury Freoch glass paperweights for £20 that later fetched £100 at Sotheby's. He had swept floors at Sotheby's, ending bis sixyears there running its glass department.

It was to Bermoodsey market that he returned after opeoing his gallery in 1967, this time as a buyer, noticing that nobody seemed to be buying Royal Doulton stoneware and that virtually nothing had been published about it. Four years later, after buying about 500 pieces of it, he held a selling exhibition coinciding with the publication of the first two of his series of a selling a Doulton. eight books oo Doulton.

A 1913 Doulton cricoline lady that sold for a fiver in the late Sixties is probably now worth £150-£200, a rarer one costing £20 then could fetch £2,000 now. "It seems to be a rule that after 20 or 30 years rarity adds a secood nought," says Mr Dennis.

"Always buy the best. Only by collecting can you really find out what's rare, what's commoo and what stands out. And publishing a book



Follow the leader: Richard Dennis with some of the treasures he has spotted, including (top left) a Midwinter plate - the latest craze he has inspired among collectors. The Midwinter exhibition is open until 7 August PHOTOGRAPHS: IOHN LAWRENCE



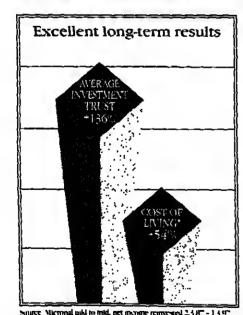
terns and dates. Collectors like to relate to a died after being bitten by a monkey. book - it gives them coofidence."

the story of the first studio pottery in Britain, ter Pottery" by Steven Jenkins, £18 from bookfounded by the Martin family. Their quirky but shops or post-free with free publications cutalogue beautifully modelled salt-glaze stooeware birds, sold in Holborn, caricatured politicians and judges and were an in-joke.

about a subject has nearly always meant that sometimes lost the int. One brother went mad the market for it has improved. We give pat- because the shop burned down and the sister

But the book must tell a good story: such as The exhibition is open until 7 August. "Midwinfrom Richard Dennis Gallery, 144 Kensington Church Street, London WS 4BN (0171-727 2061, fax 0171-221 1283) or Richard Denvis Pub-The family history reads like a Victorian ovel. They earned only two or three times a year and Chapter of the control of the c

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to and up with. But you'll probably say you've been too busy to attend to this yourself _ or perhaps managing money today just seems too complicated ... Maybe you think you

should entrust your money to an expert. If you do, you may be disappointed. The shocking truth is many professional fund managers are not much good at what they do. Most of them do more poorly than the Stockmarket as a

whole. The only certainty about letting others manage your money is that you'll let them help themselves to a chunk of it IN FACT the widely-accepted Random Walk theory says that you will beat the pros at picking shares by simply blindfolding yourself and sticking a pin in

the share table in your nesspaper. Incredible, but true, Look at unit brusts. The vast majority of them underperform the Stockmarket in general over time. They would have actually lost you money compared to

So the question is: Why pay fat commissions and management less to have a so-called professional manage your

buring shares at random?

What about seeking advice from a financial advisor - someone who'll give you sound and impartial advice on what best to do with your hard-earned money. Wall, you're going to have to look male rand.

Firstly, most financial advisors aren't independent. They're not even allowed to call themselves that. That's because they're employed by the big financial fund managers to sell their products, and their products alone. They're really just

So what about those who are allowed to call themselves independent financial advisers? Consider this fact most IFA's earn their living from commission from the products they sell. Yet some of the best investments are run by firms which pay no commission. How likely do you think it is they'll be on your IFA's shortlist of recommended investments if there's a commission-paying firm offering a remotely similar product?

But _ ke's face it _ most people find today's world of personal finances too

START TAKING YOUR OWN ADVICE.

"At last it is possible for a normal human being to learn the ins-and-outs of money-management and investing without all sorts of pompous and confusing technical twaddle ... The Successful Personal Investing programme from

IRS is like a great breath of fresh air."

Douglas Moffitt, TV and Radio Financial Commentator

complicated - and too baffing. In short, First - you'll quickly see how to they're stuck. They are successful in many other respects. But when it comes know you had to investing and money management they have no real plan. All because there's been no simple very to get started. That is,

entil now ... SUCCESSFUL PERSONAL INVESTING (SPI) is the much acclaimed, up-to-theminute, "hands-on", self-instruction course in investing and money management that you follow at home at your own pace .. with no pressure.

In simple language it outlines stepby-step how to build your own financial independence _ and how to take the million or so you'll probably earn in your lifetime and get started on building the million you want to end up with _ and all without decending on some "expert" ... and without paying for advice that may not be truly independent. THE SPI COURSE starts with the basics

and then goes on to the "tricks of the trade" - the simple, tried and true techniques that enable you to protect and then pyrapsid profits to build wealth even

"uncover" up to an extra £2,000 a year to invest - money you probably didn't even Second - you'll be surprised at how

easy it is to learn how to evaluate pension chemes _ gilts _ shares _ Personal Equity Plans _ Enterprise Investment Schemes _ property investments _ simple strategies that can slash your tax bill _ in fact, all the important areas of investing and money management. Third - And maybe most rewarding.

you'll learn in detail about a number of crafty but simple "behind-the-scenes" techniques that you don't usually get to find out about at all. The kind that can often boost your returns 20, 30, even 50 per cent more - sometimes just in months - not years. FOR EXAMPLE, a little technique called

"straddle", lets you bet that the Stockmarket will go up and at the same time bet that it will go down - believe it or not, it is perfectly possible to make a profit whether it goes up or goes down!

Or how you can use your pension plan to turn 1770 into £1000 overnight -

Of course there's a good deal more. But as you can see Successful Personal Investing is definitely not just some collection of "hot tips" or boring technical mumbo-jumbo.

or more if you're a higher rate taxpayer

Always everything is spelled out stepby-step, like a simple recipe. So you take just those steps that are right for your

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benefit but yours. Let's face it - most people spend more time planning a fortnight's boliday than

learning how to manipulate their money. Surprisingly, SPI takes only a couple of hours of your time a month. There is no hurning of the midnight oil.

True, money isn't everything. But it does help. SPI shows you how to start on the way towards having that million - and being able to tell yourself that you're a millionaire. So, before your mind clamps shut over that word again ... why not at least take the opportunity to see for yourself? You can now get to look over the first two lessons with no obligation for 10 days just by posting the coupon below. And whatever you decide, Lesson 1 is yours to keep - FREE!

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owards the end of last year, I wrote about the investment trust sector and how it seemed to be facing troubled times. I said consolidation looked inevitable, with the market suffering from oversupply and a worrying deterioration in the general level of discounts, where the price of shares in the trust is less than the value of its underlying assets. The warning proved timely, since there have been a number of disappointments since then.

With the exception of overseas specialist trusts, the discount gap has mostly failed to narrow; and in the case of general trusts, the gap between share price and net asset value is, at an average of 14 per cent, about as wide as it has been at any time in the past year. For new investors, this is still an interesting buying opportunity, but for those who are already shareholders, the deterioration in ratings over the past couple of years is a disappointment. The strength of sterling has knocked

the sector back and there have been nther worries, including the various tax changes in the Budget. Apart from the ending of ACT tax credits, which will hit higher-yielding trusts but has been priced into the market, the main issue is what the promised review of capital gains tax might throw up.

The great threat which has hung over the general diversified investment trusts is that many of the big investment institutions might want to dispose of

their big shareholdings. Whereas 20 years ago, it was common for life assurance companies and others to place a portion of their investment funds with general trusts for them to manage on their behalf, most now prefer to make their own decisions. If they give money tn investment trust managers, it is mainly tn those who run specialist sector or country funds which the institutions cannot so easily replicate themselves.

To date, they have been restrained by the large capital gains tax bills they stand to incur if they realise their holdings. But if the review of the taxation system promised by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, results in some form of tapered CGT system, designed to encourage longer-term investors, it could change the whole ball game. It is too early to guess how things might fall out in such circumstances, but il adds another interesting challenge to a sector already facing threatened competition on the retail front from a new breed, the open-

ended investment company (OEIC).

A look at the sector fund flow statistics for the first half of the year shows that concerns about its health are not without foundation. While unit trusts have enjoyed a bumper year for sales, the same is not the case for investment trusts. During the first half of this year, there was a net outflow of funds from the sector for the first time since 1990. Of the £980m of new money that came in, roughly half was in the form of debt



Emerging markets may be the one bright spot in investment trusts, a sector that is still under-performing

	Discount to asset table (%)	High	LOW	pedas (2)
di conventional frasis	11.5	12.0	8.4	1.70
T-SEI linder inus is	11.4	11.6	7.7	1.79
on specialisi	14.4	14.4	10.5	1.79
matter companies	13.3	132	81	1.82
neotine dio.s. p	10.4	10.7	6.8	355
ari hi growb:				
Mar h America	87	182	5.8	0.86
Har Basi excluding Japan	122	#L3:::	5.3	0.50
New Paper -	72	124	. 1.7	0.09
and a second	104	129	8.8	0.97
B'nerging make k	99	121	5.6	0.39
	24 BA	£ 82	-26	1.77

rather than equity. New issues brought in barely more than £200m – a far cry from the bumper year of 1994, when two British Investment Trust to turn in outflow of funds was the decision by the British Investment Trust to turn into a investment trusts each raised £500m

routes by which investment trusts try to overcome the effect of a deteriorating

As the table shows, the average level of discount on investment trusts is still 10-15 per cent. Although Japanese trusts have responded to the recovery in the Tokyo stock market this year (up 19 per cent in sterling terms), only North American trusts are trading anywhere near their lows for the year in terms of discount.

The worst problems are in the smaller companies section. As has been widely noted, virtually all the strength in the London stock market this year has come from the largest companies. The Footsie index, which broadly represents the performance of the largest 100 companies by market capitalisation, is up 28.5 per cent over the past year. But the FTSE 250 index, which measures the next tier of medium-sized and smaller companies, has risen only 1.5 per cent

during the same period. What we are seeing is a blue chip rally, and it is no surprise that the specialist smaller company trusts are taking a beating. Yet the strength of Footsic is not doing much good even for those general trusts which closely follow the main market indices. The Alliance Trust, for example, has grown in net asset value by 15 per cent over the past year, but is still languishing on a 16 per cent discount. Scottish Mortgage is selling on a discount of just under 14 per cent.

Of course some of the better quality, more specialist trusts are still selling on low discounts, reflecting exceptional

performance or other special factors, My conclusion is that buying a good name general trust on a 15 per cent discount looks a good bet on a two-to-three-year view. I am not persuaded that the time has yet come to switch back from blue chips to smaller companies.

A combination of low inflation and tough anti-inflationary policies (the combination we now seem to be heading for in the UK) is one that tends to favour larger companies.

One area where I think we could see positive action is in the emerging market ector. After the euphoria of the early 1990s, the performance of emerging markets has been dull over the past two years. It has become a very selective game, where you need to be invested in the right markets to have much chance of making a decent return. But could that

now be about to change?
The analysts at Credit Lyonnais Laing are one team who think there is now good value to be found in some of the general emerging market trusts, and I am inclined to agree with them. Discounts here are mostly over 10 per cent and the outlook for the sector is more positive than for some time, with price/earning ratios down from their stratospheric level to around 14 times on average. They could be one bright spot in an otherwise still unexciting sector outlook.

Don't take it for granted

Make your money last beyond freshers' week. By Rachel Fixsen

reedom is one of the hest things about student life. Often away from home for the first time, you can party as late as you like, sometimes set your own timetable and choose how to spend your mnney. But getting

mired in mnney problems spoils things. As hundreds of thnusands of former 'A' level students prepare to sample college life, many are likely to walk a financial tightrope. Even in London, where grants are highest, they will nnly have just over £4,200 of grant and loan a year to keep the wolf from the door. More than nne in six students drop out of courses because of money problems.

"Being short of money can become all-encompassing to the extent that it affects your work and social life," says Loma Fowlie, undergraduate at University College London. "People are always talking about it."

So getting as much help as you can with your money is essential if you are tn make the most of university. Banks are vying for student custom, keen to get their hands on grant cheques and secure future high earners as clients.

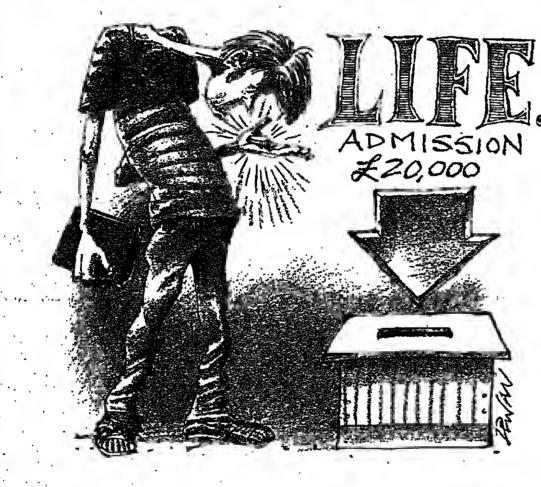
Midland Bank offers one of the best deals for students in the coming academic year. Those whn npen a current. account with Midland can have an interest-free overdraft of £750 in their first year, £1,000 in their second and £1,250 in their third.

Ynu also get £50 cash nr a four-year. student railcard, and earn 2.25 per cent interesi nn any credit balances you are lucky ennugh in have.

Barclays has yet to give details of this year's student package, hut last year it offered an interest-free overdraft of £1,000 for year nne, £1,250 in the secand year and £1,500 in the third year nf a course. It was handing nut £25 tn students opening an account, with annther £25 for anyone who signed up for a Barclaycard as well. Credit interest was paid at 2 per cent.

Student linans are a fact of life for undergraduates without sponsorship or parents with the money and will to help them nut. A full student grant for the first academic year is £2,160 for those living in London in the coming year, and this can be supplemented with a student loan of up to £2,085.

According to Barclays' latest survey,



students' average dehts have risen by a quarter this year to £2,475, including £453 of bank borrowings. But though students tend to be an educated bunch, their poor grasp of basic money management lies at the root of their problems, says NatWest.

School-leavers dn not really understand the financial demands of university life. Only after graduatinn does it become clear to many students how much debt they have huilt up, it says.

"The major issue isn't how many free

university life including advice on how tn manage your finances.
Nat West's interest-free overdraft

for students this year is a flat £1,000 for the first three years, rising for the fourth and fifth years. It gives £35 in college or university welfare adviser. cash to account openers and pays 2 per cent interest on credit balances.

Students can run into financial difficulties in many ways, the National still be available. Uninn of Students says. Some arrive at college unly to find their grant cheque

gramme, and is launching a guide to seem like a lot of money," an NUS spokeswoman says. "Ynu go out quite a lot in freshers' week, and this can

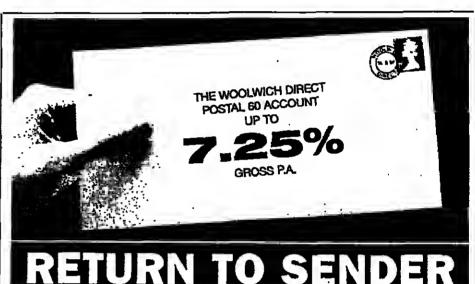
leave you stuck for the rest of the year." If you do find yourself penniless, your first port of call should be your Access funds, one-off grants of up to £500 for particularly hard-up students and administered by the college, may

A third of all students resort to working part-time. "Some part-time jobs

Useful numbers for student accounts

Barchays Bank - 0500 400100 Lloyds Bank - 0800 147789 Midland Bank - 0800 180180 Co-operative Bank - 0345 252000 Bank of Scotland - 0500 313111

Royal Bank of Scotland - 0800 121121 TSB - via branches Hallfax - 01422 333333 National Westminster Bank - 0171-726 1000 First Trust Bank - 01232 325599



	GROSS PAID ANNUALLY
£100,000+	7.25%
50,000 · £99.999	7.00%
25,000 · £49,999	6,80%
£10,000 - £24.999	6.60%
£5,000 · £9,99 0	6.40%
£2,500 · £4,999	6.25%

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gifts banks have on offer but how has not arrived. Budgets are often can help your CV, but they're generally stretched when students find them- muck jobs," the NUS spokeswoman you're going to help students look after their mnney," says Nat West.
The bank already invests £1m in a selves having to move into expensive says. "Avoid late-night jobs in bars and ones where you might miss lectures schools money management pro-"If you do get a full grant, it might



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two years. effect will be to make the UK UK GILTS Transari Nath Ante Good TEB Armicel 1 ETROPE Catherine PS Bergerin Control PS Bergerin Control PS Bergerin After European After European Ante Deberging Control PS Bergerine Control PS Bergerine Control Band European Control Eur SECTOR AVERAGES Over 1 W Value £100

Credit tax axe moves goal posts

All change: Institutions grope for new income strategy in the wake of Brown's bombshell

nvestors seeking income of income that is needed," he from their savings may be forgiven for feeling slightly put out. Interest rates are rising almost every week, the amount paid out by banks and

building societies goes up accordingly, yet returns on their equities could fall.

The blow was dealt to them last week by Gordon Brown. the Chancellor, whose decision to scrap tax credits on dividends means the expected vield on their equities will have to be adjusted downvards as a result.

So what does this mean for many people, particularly those in retirement, who need a regular - and hopefully growing - income stream? Fund managers propose differing tactics.

Michael Ashbridge, investment director at Save & Prosper, believes the removal of tax credits will have an important impact on the market.

He says: "It will probably strengthen a trend that we have already seen over the past Over that time, traditional

high-income shares have performed extremely badly, with poor earnings and dividend

"If we want to outperform. the best thing to do is redirect funds into a combination of low-yielding equities and increase yields by investing in fixed-interest securities." Mr Ashbridge believes the

investment market look much more like that of the United States, where, he says, nobody buys equities for income, but

reward shareholders in the short term will do so by means of share buy-backs rather than dividend payouts.

But he warns: "It will be very difficult for older, tradi-

tional equity investment funds to change their portfolios. If we are saying that we are prowe are saying that we are pro-viding mostly capital growth from equities, it is going to be harder to provide high levels of income from them as well." Save & Prosper (S&P) has tried to straddle the demand for income with the need to

deliver capital growth with its Extra Income fund, which places 60 per cent of its cash into equities and 40 per cent in fixed interest investments. The fund has a current yield of 5.5 per cent net and in the year to June also achieved growth of 20 per cent. Mr Ashbridge accepts that

this may not be enough for some savers, who may, in some cases, need to redeem some of their units to generate higher levels of income, which is an expensive way to achieve a higher return. Alternatively, high-income corporate bonds may be the answer.
We are operating in a mix-

and-match environment where it is possible to choose the level

Other funds available from S&P include a Premier Equity Income fund, which has an 80/20 investment ratio herween equities and fixedinterest bonds and gilts. This currently has a yield of 4,4 per

The S&P approach to income generation means, in effect, a further turn away the value-based approach adopted by many fund managers, who have been primarily concerned with good stock-picking to find highyielding shares with good capital growth prospects. Not all investment houses agree with this approach.

Vivian Bazatgette, managing director at M&G Investment Management, one of the UK's sargest fund managers, says equities still offer good opportunities for a steadily increasing income stream.

"Our income funds will continue to satisfy the demand for income over time, as we have done before," he says, "That is the advantage of equilies over fixed-interest investments."

But Mr Bazalgette admits: 🗭 The abolition of tax credits is had for all conities. It makes them less attractive compared to fixed-interest investments.

Clearly, there is a need for investors to look at fixed-interest products as part of an overall mix. But equities will continue to offer the opportunity for rising income levels." M&G will maintain net income distribution from its funds at about 4 per cent.

Mr Bazalgette warns that one side-effect of rising inter-Companies aiming to est rates is that long-term yields from fixed-interest investments may fall - while their value rises - as markets become convinced that a successful anti-inflationary strut-

egy is in place. Meanwhile, not all highyielding stocks are affected equally, with stronger ones, including many utilities companies at present, still able to deliver good income coupled with strong capital growth.

Despite M&G's approach.

some managers believe that over the long term, the effect of the Chancellor's Budget will be to slowly strangle the high-yield, low-growth strategy previously adopted by many equity funds.
Bill Mott, head of securities

at Credit Suisse, says in an interview this week in Money Marketing, the magazine for financial advisers: "Long term. the tax changes will favour growth equities and bonds. It will be negative for income equities.

If so, investing for income will need an alternative invest-ment strategy from the one adopted in the past.

The need to review one's investments to fit in with Mr Brown's new realities is stronger than ever.



Homeowners Friendly Society is launching travel insurance policies aimed at over-55s. Prices include a charge of £76.97 for annual cover for individuals aged 56-64 travelling in the UK and Europe. Cover for a two-week holiday in the UK and Channel Islands starts at £13.86 for those aged 56-64. Call 0800 302100.

Colonial, the financial services company, is launching a credit card with an interest rate of 9.9 per cent APR for the first six months, reverting to 18.9 per cent APR thereafter. Call 0800 776262

Norwich and Peterborough **Building Society** is increasing rates on many savings accounts, including its six-

month bond, where rates are up from 6.3 to 7 per cent gross. Call 01733 370478.

Framlington is launching a Financial and Health PEP, specialising in medical investments. It offers a 1 percentage point discount un the 5.5 per cent initial charge levied on the fund. Annual charges are 1.5 per cent. Cation 0345 775511.

The Share Centre, an execution-only broking service, has teamed up with Family Assurance to offer a free selling service for windfall building society and insurance company shares, as long as they are reinvested in the society's products. Call 01273 **724570**.

Prudential has increased the rates paid on its 60-day Notice Account to 7.2 per cent gross on balances of £10,000 or over, Minimum balances of £5,000 will receive 6.2 per cent gross. Call 0800 000222.

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AGE: 46
OCCUPATION: Local government manager
THE ISSUE: Sandra recently divorced and, as part of her settlement, she received a lump sum of £100,000. She is cautious, cannot take risks and her money has been tied up in a building society for some time. A friend has suggested buying a flat or a small house with slightly over half the mooey and renting it out. Sandra would like to know the pros and cons of such a move. THE ADVISER: Andrew Reeves FCA, proprietor of Andrew Reeves FCA, proprietor of Andrew Reeves & Co, a property letting and managing agency, 4 High Street, Bromley, Kent BRI 1EA (0181-464 8566). Also a national council member of the Association of Residential Letting Agents (01923 896555). THE ADVICE: "My first advice is that Sandra should not rut all her ease in one basket. Her should not put all her eggs in one basket. Her idea that some £60,000 should be invested in residential property for letting purposes is a

Property is one

someone with a

nest egg who is

averse to risk

NAME: Sandra Allchurch

solution for

sound one. Having made a decision to invest in property, she should firstly decide whether she wishes to simply use her own capital or raise additional funds through a mortgage.

With het own capital, she could buy one or perhaps two properties, and expect to receive a rental return of about 10 or 12 per cent on capital employed. After running expenses such as insurance, agents, fees, repairs and maintenance, her net return is likely to be 7 to 8 per cent per annum, before tax. It is important she takes expert advice locally hefore huying a property, to ensure she makes the right choice.

It may not be her idea of a "dream cottage", but should be chosen instead for its appeal to tenants. It should be convenient to shops, schools and transport links, in good condition, preferably with modern kitchen and bathroom - and economical to maintain.

Whether the property should be furnished or provided with the basics - carpets, curtains and some kitchen appliances - should be decided after conferring with the letting agent. While furnished is the norm, some areas are experiencing greater demand for unfurnished To fully equip and furnish a two-bedroomed

property might cost around £3,000 but the ben-gain threefold. A 5 per cent growth in property made, but rental income from the property ership is very much an "armchair" investment. | investors look hackwards



Invest from an armchair

efits can be higher rent levels, longer occupancy per tenant, and therefore less risk of void periods with each change of tenants.

Being in full-time employment, Sandra is unlikely to want to adopt a "hands-on" approach. Agents not only find tenants, but also collect the rent and manage the property. This typically costs 12.5-15 per cent of the rent.

Sandra has the option of raising further funds by way of investment mortgages available under the ARLA Buy-to-Let scheme, and of purchasing, say, four or five properties rather than two. The main attraction here is capital appreciation. By dividing her own funds into smaller amounts of £12,000 ot £15,000 and raising twice as much again, she will increase the

values would amount to a 15 per cent capital

gain for investors "geared up" in this way.

Buy-to-Let mortgage leoders, including household names such as Halifax, Woolwich and NatWest, as well as specialist lenders Mortgage Trust, Mortgage Express and Paragon, will lend up to 75 per cent or even 80 per cent of

a property's value. It would, however, he prudent to borrow no more than 65 per cent to keep interest payments down and provide a buffer against future rises in tates. Interest currently charged is typically 0.5 per cent above standard variable home-loan rates. All lenders also offer a fixed tate for anything from three to 10 years. The usual multiple-of-income calculations will be

Home comforts: a local estate agent could be the first port of call for people who are unsure about what type of property to invest in

being bought is takeo into account. The costs of the ARLA Buy-to-Let scheme are typically £300 to £400, which includes valuation and arrangement fees. Legal fees to buy the property should be no more than 0.5 per cent of the

The main difference in the financial position if mortgage funds are raised is that most of the net rental income goes to meet monthly interest payments. If Sandra is looking for a regular monthly income from her investment, then this would not be the route to take.

However, it is very tax-efficient to borrow to buy a property to let, as all interest payments are fully allowable against income tax. Set up correctly, it is possible to minimise ot avoid altogether income tax payments on rental income by halancing allowable outgoings against income. All running expenses of the property are generally allowable, with only capital expenses being excluded. However, a wearand-tear tax allowance of about 10 per cent of the annual rent is available for furnished rented property.

Capital gains tax is payable at the marginal rate of income tax when the property is eventually sold, although this should be less than expected, since gains are adjusted for inflation by reference to the RPI over the period of the investment. For instance, if a property increases by 10 per cent over a period in which inflatioo was 5 per cent, capital gains are only paid oo the 5 per cent difference in value.

Clearly, property investors must accept that they may be subject to CGT, unlike some other investments. Equally, property investment is often made hecause a "bricks-and-mortar" investment is more appropriate to certain

people's risk profiles. She should bear in mind that, just as with other investments, the value of properties can go down as well as up. The appeal of property investment to Sandra might be that she will own an asset situated in her local area which she can "walk past". It will provide an income every year for as long as it is held, or if purchased on a mortgage, will pay for itself over, say. 15 or 20 years, after which the additional income will supplement a pension throughout her retirement years. Managed correctly, property own-

strategists would have had an additional asset class to build into their allocation models. Gold used to be taken very seriously as an investment. As recently as 1988 my colleagues and I thought it carried sufficient investor appeal to launch a fund, the main aim of which was to profit from the fluctuations in the gold price. I doubt we would get such an investment off the ground today.

The news earlier this week that one of South Africa's largest mines had been mothballed brought intu sharp focus how poor the recent performance of gold has been. It was not a good week for

gold all round. Australia announced a massive reduction in its reserves. This follows fairly hefty sales from eastern European governments, anxious to finance their restruentring, not to mention destocking from developed countries. Then there is the risk that Germany might use gold to help it reach the Maastricht criteria for EMU. We need

more buyers. Which is where we hit problems. Gold has industrial uses and remains the cornerstone of jewellery manufacture. But governments have been the niggest buyers - and investors seeking a safe haveo in times of turmoil.

We're short on turmoil hese days. The collapse of the Soviet Union has led to a decline in tension, whilst fewer spats in the Middle East have also reduced the demand for gold. Eveo the Chinese seem to have lost their appetite.

ls this the end of the road for gold as a serious investment? Speculators clearly think so. It seems traders could be short of as much as 8 million ounces in the commodity markets.

The belief is that central hanks will never again return as large-scale huyers. The financial markets are, after all, reasonably secure these

Financial assets, as a consequence, look the best bet for the future. And financial assets pay dividends, unlike gold.

Do not forget, either, that



Gold may have lost its

lustre, but retains its attraction as a safe haven in times of turmoil

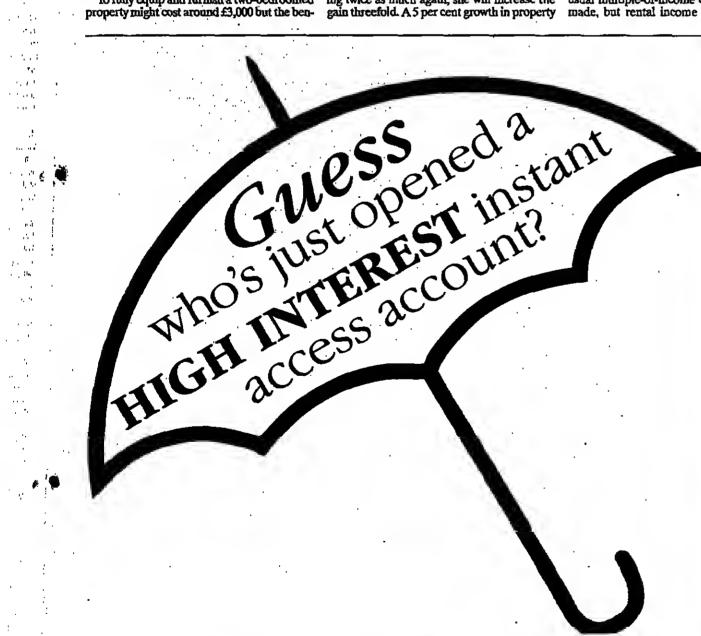
when choosing where to place their money. Gold has been a poor home for eash for the past 15 years. The FT Gold Mining Index is down 50 per cent from its peak.

But things could change First of all, government-inspired selling is not universal. India, Japan and other Far Eastern countries continue to mop up the odd ingot or two. Indeed, Japan indicated recently that it might lose its appetite for US Bonds, leading to speculation that gold is perhaps the only available

It may be that we need another serious conflict to restimulate interest, but it is too early to write off gold as a serious asset class. Geoff Campbell, one of the team that runs the Gold and General Fund at Mercury Asset Management, does not helieve that gold is finished. This fund is 80 per cent invested in the companies that delivet it onto the world market.

Investors concerned that financial markets have scaled unsustainable heights might well tuck away a gold investment. And many think that it is not all over yet.

Brian Tora is chairman of the Greig Middleton investment strategy committee and may be contacted on 0171-655



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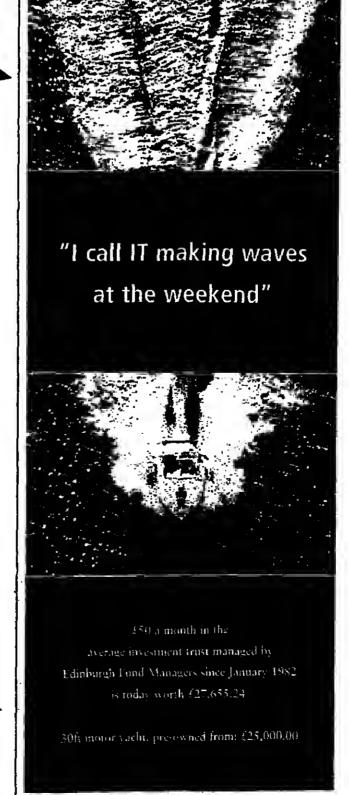
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This dread donkey must be dropped

John Chapman says critical illness cover in the UK may be fatally flawed

hat was the fastestof 1996? The gruesome answer is critical illness cover, or "dread disease" insurance, as it was once known. Last year some 470,000 people insured themselves against getting a critical illness such as cancer, heart attack or stroke, or even some 30 other dread diseases, and

surviving for 28 days. Critical illness cover (CIC) met with a mixed reception when introduced in the UK in 1986. One marketing director who rejected the product confesses to feeling like the manager who turned down the Beatles. But there is a sting in the tail. It may well he rational to consider this protection. Yet, when salesmen reel off long lists of up to 34 nasty diseases, fear may become the dominant factor. Concern may then he allayed by the prospect of lump sum pay-outs reaching £500,000 or more if you pay enough premiums. The combination of fear and greed is pretty potent.

How easy is it to choose which products offer the best value for money? Of some 75 products in a recent survey, 25 covered between 10 to 19 illnesses, another 25 covered 20 to 29, and a further 25 covered 30 to 34. Yet about 95 per cent of claims arise on only five cancer, heart attacks, strokes, multiple sclerosis and coronary artery bypass surgery. Are the extra illnesses covered mar-

keting gimmicks? Even when policies cover the same number of illnesses there is no simple choice. The make-up of illnesses differs. For example, Sun Life and Commercial Union have policies covering 23 illnesses. Of these 19 are common to both policies. Sun Life then covers is trouble ahead.

Alzheimer's, Aids through growing product blood transfusions, loss of independent existence, and Total Permanent Disability (defined as unable to carry out certain activities of daily living). How does one choose by tossing a coin?

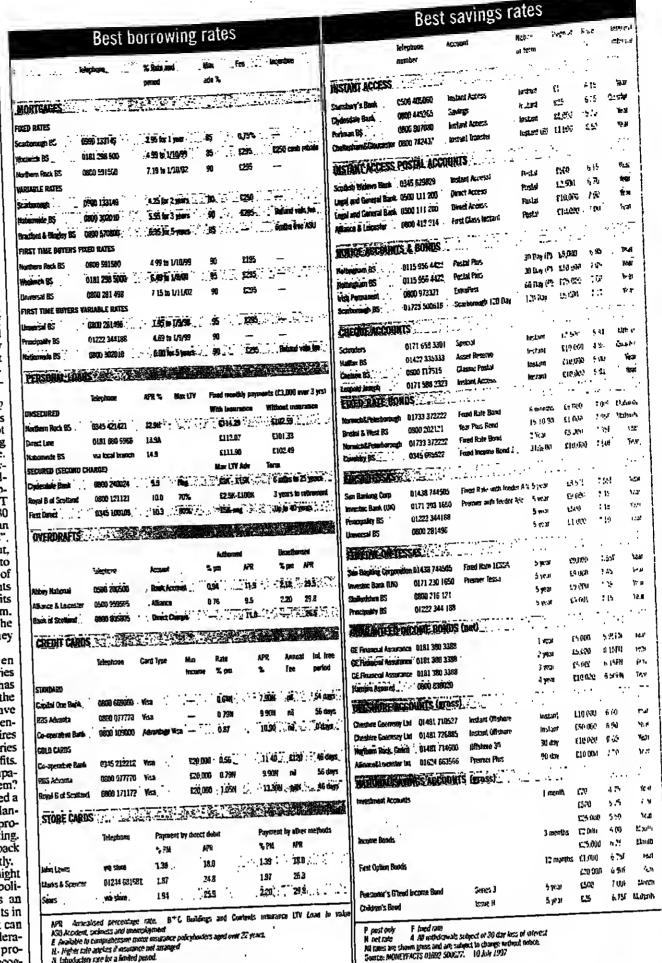
Does ČIC meet real needs? A lump sum may meet debts such as mortgages, but it is not the best way of replacing income, or providing for care.

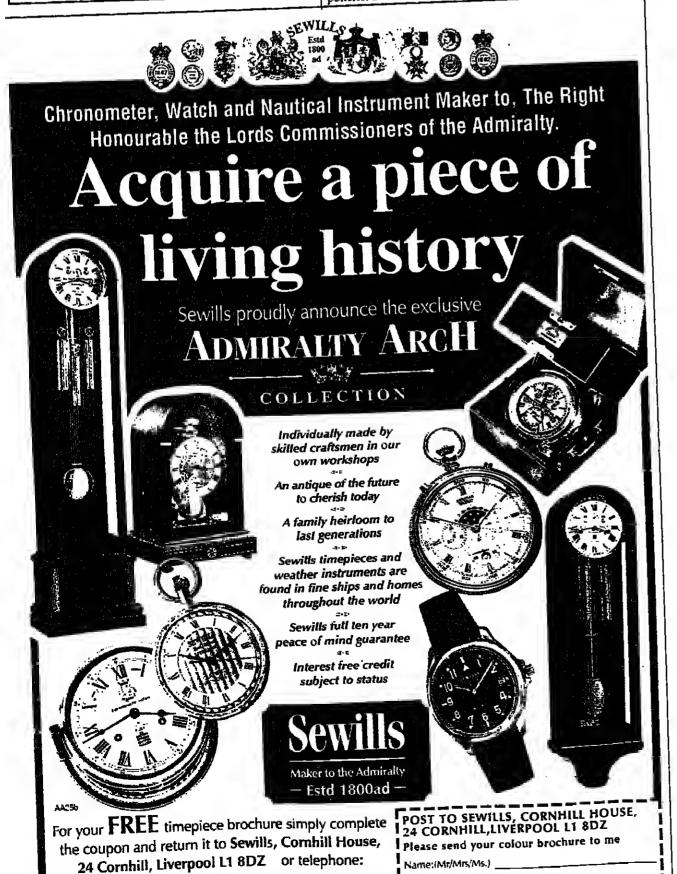
The greatest concern, however. arises over the 'widows(ers) and children" problent brought out in the OFT report last year. More than 80 per cent of CIC sales are on an accelerated either/or hasis". After a critical illness payout, no payout can be made to dependents on the death of the policyholder. Dependents will not then get the benefits once envisaged for them. Many policyholders may he under the illusion that they have both types of cover.

This problem has been recognised in other countries where critical illness cover has been promoted. In the US, the insurance authorities have drawn up an Accelerated Benefits Model Act which requires the consent of the beneficiaries to any acceleration of benefits.

What are the UK companies doing about this problem? No company has introduced a buy-back policy. Peter Man-nion of Munich Re says progress has been disappointing. Some companies say huy-back policies would he too costly.

It is also possible they might consider that re-casting policies could be viewed as an acknowledgement of faults in policies already sold. But can they continue to sell acceleration policies without the protection other countries recognise as necessary? There really





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Sharon Davey in my wee

School reunions are attractive to the brave and successful only. You skive off if you haven't achieved a fair bit since failing your maths Alevel twice

or school bell, substitute big, bad world outside, I am door bell of 10 Acacia Avenue. One pristine, parquet-floored parlour is transformed into a sweaty sixth-form common room as the class of '72 gather, giggling and whispering at grey hair and no hair and time's other checky tricks.

The hormones may have dampened down in a quarter century, but this is still a place of secrets and revelations, and a frisson of trepidation. For school reunions are attractive to the hrave and successful only. You skive off if you haven't achieved a fair bit since failing your maths Alevel twice in succession.

And this turns out to be a room full of achievers. Lecturers, poets, journalists, equal opportunities advisers a working-class class turned middle-class, every one.

Their headmaster would have been so proud. Except, of course, he wasn't invited. It is remarkable how, even among a group of welladjusted adults, the mere mention of a certain Mr Chips induces a distant, haunted expression. I can think of

nothing worse than a head-on memory trip back to those ghastly days of spinster teachers more hairy than their male counterparts, of puppy fat and Clearasil and the stomach-churning fear of mortality. What a joke it is now, to think you were terrified of dying at least a decade before gravity begins pulling your body downwards to the inevitable.

But as I am merely accompanying Other Half to this 25th anniversary nostalgia fest, and as I was still in ankle socks and big knickers when this lot were about to launch themselves, in loons and tanktops, on the smirkily happy to observe.

It seems people have changed remarkably little. with the exception of the bank manager who twice weaved his way incognito past the social worker, his teenage pash for two groping years, so drastically has he receded and protruded

in all the wrong places. Otherwise, Head Girl will be head girl till the day she dies, all shiny and spick and span in navy blue ensemble with tastefully contrasting neckerchief. And mellow yellow hippy man may have lopped six inches off his hair, for mid-life propriety's sake, but he still grabs the Acacia Avenue common-

room guitar and engages

the class in a cross-legged

Beatles singalong session.

the class's party fixer, tells

me I look gorgeous, bless her. How rare and how

refreshing for a woman to express such fruity

appreciation of another.
Usually, it's "That dress is very flattering", which tends to mean "You're fat, but it

hides a multitude of sins."

Or is that just my paranoia?

Whatever, I'm particularly

pleased because said dress

is at least five years old.

Not that it is suddenly

The hostess, now as then

hack in high fashion - being a plain old chain-store shift. it was hardly cutting-edge in the first place - just that it has taunted me from the murky depths of my wardrobe for the past three years. "Pah, you couldn't squeeze a thigh into me if you tried!"

So, the dreaded Flabbusters class is really working. Yes, it is back to class again, this time to be preached at by a svelic teacher who appears to have lost her ability to hear, along with the requisite 25lbs. The bizarre, onesided conversation goes something like this: "So then, have you been

good this week?"
"Well, actually, I porked out on two

hags of ..."
"You'll never guess what, I numped into my exhusband yesterday. and he hardly recognised me. He's taking me for a night on the town, have to watch the G&Ts, though." This is intended

to be inspirational. along with the grotty pair of size 16 eans that teacher has discarded, lizard-like, and which she insists on holding aloft each week, like some nnholy offertory.

Give me the bread and wine, I say, And yet I continue to pay my £3.99 a go not to be heard. Something to do with the temporary halting of the march towards middle age and all

its spread, I suppose.
A slim chance of that, as Mr Bank Manager will ascertain. But there is always cause for optimism. Just think. Sweet Maggie May, who had us casting off the responsible years with such gay abandon, must by now be eligible for her hus pass.

Futurology: futile but fun

e have developed, according to Mark Lawson in A Brief History of the Future (Radio 4, Saturday), a range of techniques for dealing with permanent uncertainty - among them, sermons on the resurrection, life insurance and Mystic Meg. Leaving aside the question of whether Mystic Meg counts as a technique more a desperate piece of improvisation, really - you notice that he doesn't mention pension plans, surely the most insidious reassurance tech-

nique we possess. A degree of shakiness about the future is integral to the whole notion of insurance: you may fall off a cliff, warns the salesman - shouldn't you invest in a mattress, just to be safe? It plays on our insecuriother hand, waves insecurity aside, True, you are told to bear in mind that stocks can go down, as well as up - that the size and fluffiness of this financial cushion may vary - hut it assumes that things will carry on roughly as they are today. Perhaps this is a sensible working assumption, but it leaves agrarian societies thought of me uneasy. I have always the future as pretty much more



Robert Hanks the week on radio

wanted to ask a pension salesman, but have never dared, what happens in the event of what happens in the event of the collapse of Western civili-sation. What's needed is a pol-icy – the Branch Davidian PEP, say – that will convert ties. The pension plan, on the your accumulated funds into, say, basic agricultural equipment, medical supplies, small arms plus a few animal traps and geiger counters.
This is, I realise, an unfash-

ionable view. The theme of A Brief History of the Future is the way that our visions of tomorrow have altered. The first

or the same; the Greeks thought it was a process of slow decline from a Golden recurrence, or renewal following conflagration): Enlightenment man, under Newton's spell, thought the future was rationally calculable. This first programme

(three more to come) barely had the time to skim over these fundamental changes; it didn't even touch on the extraordinary see-saw of ideas about the future that has characterised our own century. Just in the last decade and a half, for instance, Graham Swift's marvellous novel Waterland, published in 1983. has become faintly embarrassing to read, with its passages of paranoia about impending nuclear apoca-lypse and history approaching its end. After 1989, by contrast, it was possible to suggest that history was coming to an end for opposite reasons that there were no significant conflicts to disturb the orderly

procession of events. You can't blame Mark Lawson for omitting all this. But you can criticise A Brief History of the Future for being a in fun for now.

little too keen on brevity, and for getting a diversity of expert testimony at the expense of Age (with some hope of either coherence and depth. The only real moments of gravitus came at the beginning, with Bryan Magee issuing solemn warnings of the dangers of addiction to the future: "Pecple.... can go future mad. And often have.

For proof of this, you only had to lurn to Beyond the Millennium (Radio 4, Monday Lin which Sheena McDonald asks thinkers how life will be in 2010. Last week, Professor Chris Hahles-Gray was looking forward rather gleefully to future warfare - soldiers in exoskeletons with jet-packs on their backs, weapons which choose their own targets, and so forth. This week, Kevin Murray declared that the city of the future will be a much nicer place than it is now - fewer cars, less crime, better facilities. Murray, particularly, seemed absurdly certain and optimistic; but perhaps that's the only way of making futurology bearable. However grim the future may be when we get there. Beyond the Millenniam at least makes

The Portillo guide to restoration

ove Me Do (ITV, Sat) finds The Shane Ritchie Experience masquerading under a pseudonym. Most people's experience of The Shane Ritchie Experience was fairly undiluted revulsion, but somehow the cockney sparra' lives to fight another day. The entertainment has now been toned down. This means it is merely mildly appalling, as opposed to dangerously so. It's still a game show in which betrothed couples compete to get to the altar, but this time the hoops through which they have to throw themselves dole out humiliation in

more manageable portions. Each couple is asked about each other, and they only score points if their answers tally. Among this week's contestants were Colin, a bald firefighter, whose best mate is called Colin. and his Spanish hride-to-be Anxone. Shane, whose mind is nation, to the lovely Karen. not as hroad as his suits, gave Eliminated early on, they could not as broad as his suits, gave us his dazzling array of jokes stereotyping the Spanish. Anxone, impressively refraining from acting out that stereotype, missed the chance to clack his cojones in a couple of castanets. Then there was Clare and Roh, a ruthlessly shallow couple from Nuneaton. (Shane does a very handy Nuneaton accent too). to Charles? "His title," says
You knew they were going to Camilla. "My intellect," dis-You knew they were going to win because, deploying a gameshow savvy borne of thousands of hours on the sofa,

they skilfully trained all their



he week on television

answers on the lowest common denominator. "What first attracted Roh to Clare?" asked Shane. "Bum," said Roh. "Bum," agreed Clare. On such fundamental things are marriages hased. Then there was Darren, betrothed by what you can only assume was pred justifiably claim to be the victims of discrimination, because Shane didn't take the piss out of their estuarine accents (being exactly the same as his own).

You can see this game catching on at house parties in Gloucestershire. Camilla (C5. Sun), what first attracted you agrees Charles. When was your first kiss? "On his honeyher husband's stag night," says Charles. Charles, what had Most of the sizzling took place babit of yours does Camilla find most exasperating? "Talking out of the side of my mouth," says Charles. "His tendency to cancel our romantic holidays at the last minute hecause of press furore over no one watched anyway because they can't receive the signal," says Camilla. Camilla was an unexpected

treat. There were approximately six shakycam minutes of the reclusive adulteress on film, hut much fun to be had meeting all her pals. The chief secretary of the Parker-Bowles fan club is a redoubtable cove called Charles Benson, whose proud bulldog head sits on a neck just because the Prince of Wales's ex-wife is extraordinarily beautiful, we shouldn't overlook the charms of the woman who may be his future wife. "I "And she's also very sexy." So

that's all right then.
To he fair, the documenof the early 1970s," it explained, "Smith's Lawn began to sizzle with sexual tension." (What, incidentally, did moon," says Camilla. 'After that illustrious sward do to earn such a humdrum name?)

between Camilla, by this time married, and Charles. At one dance they were seen kissing openly. The programme failed in its journalistic duty to ask witnesses what kind of kissing it was. Are we talking discrect Channel 5 documentaries that pecks, or your basic samie? It would also be quite nice to find out precisely why Andrew Parker Bowles with customary good grace continued to make Charles welcome". There must be some reason other than 'good grace" which allowed him to tolerate his own cuckoldry.

Michael Portillo, who recently underwent a humiliation every hit as bad as anything on The Shane Ritchie Experiroughly the diameter of one of ence, returned to the public the Queen's greedier corgis. eye with One Foot in the Past He was keen to establish that (BBC2, Wed). Notionally a it was really a guided tour round the guide. Portillo couched his admiration for the owner in terms that afforded an unrihave always found her valled vista on his own unacextremely attractive." he said. complished amhitions. Having restored the house from ruin, it was now a monument to the owner's time on earth. "Imagtary's script tended to agree ine being able to claim this with him. In the hol summers much, fantasised the former Defence Secretary. He was particularly impressed with the staircase. "Look at that staircase?" he marvelled, "There is nothing supporting it at all." It takes one to know one.



Whatever happened to...

This time of year - late July, early August - is when circles in the corn appeared in the late Eighties. Some 5,000 cropped up, often in ancient sites of supernatural interest such as Silbury Hill and the Iron Age forts of the Ridgeway. At the peak of the excitement this caused, a "cerealogist" (circle-

spotter), Pat Delgado, The second coming? wrote an instant bestseller called Circular Evidence, which was followed by an avalanche of explanatory theories ranging from ley lines and rutting deer to aliens and magnetic fields.

UFO or OAP? In 1991, though, things fell apart. One Doug Bower announced that

most of the patterns had been made by him, equipped with some planks of wood, balls of string and a torch or two. Delgado reacted hadly: "We have all been conned. Thousands of lives are going to be wrecked over this."

"It got beyond a joke," admitted Bower. "Whatever I did, there was always someone ready with an explanation. If

Europe and The World

people want to believe in alien beings rather than a 69-year-old man from Southampton, that's their look-out."

The devil's scythe? The circles had appeared hefore, though. Recently a privately owned pamphlei from 1678 came up for auction. It told how strange, spiralling circles had appeared one August

Cold front

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S.39 3.2 18.27 2.8

night in a field in Hertfordshire. Every straw was "placed ... with that exactness that it would have taken up above an Age for any Man to perform". It was illustrated with a woodcut of the field being mowed with a scythe by the devil. Locals had seen the field "to he all of a Flame, to the great consternation of those that beheld it".

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Dewsbury Road (until the 15th of Sep-

Aberdeen City. Anderson Drive is

down to one lane each way between

the Seafield Road mendahout and

Queens Road for the continuing road-

works (until 7th Angust)

Nottinghamshire, A52 Beeston Major roadworks on Derby Road.

Surrey, M25 J8-10.

(until further notice).

Bristol, M5 J18-19.

(until Atlgust 98).

(until September). West Yorkshire. Mt J47.

tember).

Its hour come round at last? The flame is still

hurning. The media has become disillusioned. hut the circles still appear. The dehate has moved to the Weh; enter www.rspcight. demon.uk/crop1997.htm, for example, and you'll find a long list of this year's circles, starting in

and continuing into the summer. The site's aerial pictures of swirls, spurs, gyres, interlocking lines and even triangles, all made from flattened corn, are stunning. They may be the devil's work, alien landing sites, even a secret known only to the MoD - hut they sure are heautiful.

Tom Hampson



4:57am 4:45am 4:50am

The British Isles General Situation and Outlook: Most parts of England and Wales can expect some reasonable spells of sultry warm sunshine, but a few scattered thundery showers may hreak out in the afternoon, and drizzly rain is likely to affect the south-west of England and Wales later. Showers and localised thunderstorms are likely over Scotland and Northern Ireland, hut some places will escape the downpours and stay dry. The east coast of Scotland will be plagued by mist and

low cloud throughout the day. Tomorrow, most parts of England and Wales will be warm and humid with sunny spells, but heavy showers and a few thunderstorms will develop away from the misty No. 1. Sea coasts. Scotland and Northern Ireland will also have sunny spells and a few heavy showers, but the far north-west may miss out and stay reasonably sunny. Early next week it will be unsettled in southern Britain with heavy showers and thunderstorms. Further north and west there should be fewer showers and hetter sunny snells:

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MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy; tfair; tg. "previous day's figure at local time. orence \$ 29 84 New Authors 1 25 73 Nico braitar \$ 26 79 Partiestint c 17 63 Partiestint c 17 63 Partiestint c 17 63 Rey Riya Riya Riya Shon 5 25 77 Riya Shon 5 25 77 Riya Shon 5 25 77 Sydr & Angeles 1 23 73 Tene adrid \$ 27 81 Toky ajorca c 27 81 Veni alta c 27 81 WORLD WEATHER YESTERDAY, MIDDAY (GMT): c,cloudy: tfair: fg.fog; hz.hazy. m.mist; c 25 77 s 24 75 l 31 81 f 27 81 f 22 72 r 12 54 r 12 54 r 39 102 s 25 77 r 13 55 l 26 79 sh 22 79 f 17 63 f 19 66 5 29 48 f 22 72 New York Nice Nicosia Parls Prague Reykjavik Rio de Jan Riyadh Rome Stockholm Sydney Tenerite Tokyo Venice Vienna Warsaw Washington Zurich c 13 556 f 34 875 f 24 884 f 28 875 c 29 84 f 25 77 f 32 963 f 17 70 f 17 70 s 27 81 f 21 70 f AM HT PM HT

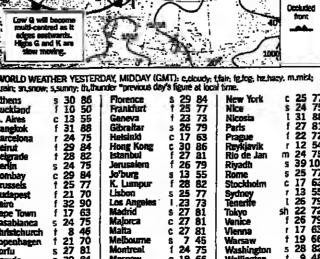
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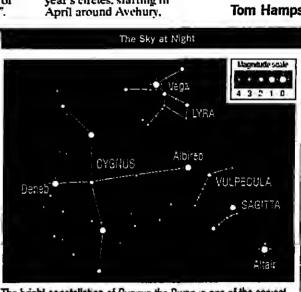
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The bright constellation of Cygnus the Swan is one of the easiest star patterns to pick out, appearing high in the night sky throughout the summer months. Albireo is a noted double star, visible as a pair in binoculars.

he dominating constellation of summer nights is surely Cygnus, the Swan. The great celestial hird appar-Way, its long neck and outthe cross itself. Cygnus re-wards a sweep with binoculars Jacqueline Mitton wards a sweep with hinoculars

to penetrate even more deeply into the riches of the Milky Way than the eye alone can. Alhireo, second brightest star ently flies through the Milky of Cygnus, is widely cited as the most glorious of double stretched wings delineated by stars. Its distinctive feature is hright stars in a cross forma- the colour contrast between tion; indeed, it is sometimes the pair. One is a third-magnicalled "the northern cross". tude yellow star: its hfth-mag-This part of the sky is strewn nitude companion has a bluish with moderately hright stars huc. Alhireo appears as a within the formal boundaries single star to the naked eye, of Cygnus, though not part of but is easily resolved by hinoc-

TODAY'S TELEVISION

Gerard Gilbert recommends The Deep Sun 8pm C4

f your daughter asks for a Xena doll this Christmas, be thankful that she's been weaned off the Spice Girls. If your son asks for one, begin to worry; it could be the beginning of something very expensive (and lucrative for any 21st-century versions of Miss Whiplash). "A dominatrix for all the family as Vanity Fair dubbed her, Xena: Warrior Princess (Sat C5) is the kinkiest prime-time television since the Batman, Catwoman, Robin menage of the 1960s.

In the same naff style of Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. which preceeds it, its high-kicking, no-nonsense beroine is a bosomy, raven-haired dose of mythical-ages girl-power. Imagine Wonderwoman with attitude, and cast-offs from some Russ Meyer slave-girl cpic. The dialogue is thoroughly knowing and modern, and Xena has a teasing, dykey relationship with her sidekick, the fair-haired femme, Gabrielle.

Inevitably, Lucy Lawless (her real name) who plays Xena is a lesbian icon in the States. As is golf. Or rather golf bas overtaken tennis as the lesbian sport of choice. This information comes courtesy of Invasion of the Big-Haired Lesbians (Sat C4), which follows the congregation of 20,000 Sapphist club-swingers in California's blue-rinse capital, Palm Springs, for the Dinah Shore Golf Classic. Actually, the golf is largely just an excuse for a weekend-long dyke-athon, "Soddom and Gomorrah meets Butlins", in the film's words.

There's a clash of the titans in David Dimbleby's India (Sat and Sun BBC2), although Dimbleby looks the more bruised by the encounter. The occasion is the 50th anniversary of Independence, and Dimbleby starts his sub-continental journey in Bangalore, capital of the country's emergent computer industry, where Pizza Hut rubs shoulders with disco-ravers

sporting the international youth dress-code of trainers and twisted baseball caps. Just as you're beginning to bemoan the loss of an older, more rural India, Dimbleby reminds us that it is still there: bonded child labour, brides burned to death for bringing insufficient dowries, baby girls killed at birth,

spectacularly corrupt politicians and all. While we're still in that part of the world, The Works (Sun BBC2) drops in on Arthur C Clarke in Sri Lanka to hear about bis latest sequel to 2001: A Space Odyssey - 3001: the Final Odyssey. Clarke's newest predictions include animals hiologically engineered as bousehold servants, and people communicating with the palms of their hands, which has got to be better than not communicating at all - Michael Redgrave's chosen mode with his children. Omnibus's Michael Redgrave: My Father (Sun BBC1) has Redgrave's son, Corin, committing

biography as an act of revenge, at so he says - the son belatedly trying to get to know his enigmatic papa. It becomes clear that Michael Redgrave's problem (and, it is suggested, the source of his fine acting) was his auguished private bisexuality. "Bisexual to say the least," was how father put it to son on the sole occasion that he chose to mention his predilections. One had already gathered as much. A rich and very personal documentary - ultimately as clusive as its subject.

Probably the best programme of the weekend, though, is an unassuming new series called The Deep (Sun C4), which reminds us, among all the hoo-hah over the Pathfinder mission to Mars, that there is still a huge unexplored region back here on Earth - to wit, the ocean floor. This is the story of man's struggle to get down there withnut being crushed to a pulp, which is kind of where we came in.

BBC 1

7.00 Children's 8BC: Harry and the Hendersons. 7.2S News, Weather. 7.30 Felix the Cat. 7.45 Babar. 8.10 Albert the 5th Musketeer. 8.35 The Flintstones. 9.00 Phantom 2040. 9.20 The Incredible Hulk. 9.45 Grange Hill. 10.15 Sweet

Valley High. 10.35 The O Zone. Put your teenage daughter into a sulk by letting her watch Jayne Middlemiss go on a video shoot with Peter Andre and on a shopping trip with Gary Barlow (3786909).

11.00 The Magic Voyage. Animation in which a woodworm named Pico joins Christopher Columbus's voyage to America (S) (7049522).

12.1S Cartoon (3064541).

12.27 Weather (B637522). 12.30 Grandstand. Introduced by Steve Rider from Loch Lornond (12492589). 12.40 Cricket Focus 44562011, 1.00 News (25266893). 1.10 Olympic Magazine (25286657). 1.25 Motorcycling: races seven and eight in the Motor Cycle News British Superbike Championship from

Brands Hatch (37704015). 1.SO Golf: the Loch Lomond World Invitational (22267251). 4.50 News Round-up (8151305). 5.15 News, Weather (7) (1204763). S.25 Local News, Weather (7850473). S.30 Cartoon (749541).

5.35 The Great Outdoors (Howard Oeutch 1988 US), Lesser John Hughes comedy in which John Candy and family have their camping trip ruined by boonsh in-law Dan Aykroyd and his brood (6806725). 7.05 The Other Half (S)(7) (965003). 7.45 The National Lottery Live. Chaka

Khan sings (S) (386541). 8.0S Dalziel and Pascoe. The last of the current crop of murder mysteries based on Reginald Hill's books (there'll be more; rabings have been very healthy). In "Exit Lines", Dalziel (Warren Clarke) is implicated in a drink-drive incident and Pascoe (Colin Buchanan) is forced to investigate (S)(T) (16931367).

9.40 News, Sport, Weather (301831). 10.00 HEM Hard Target (John Woo 1993 US), Brilliant Hong Kong action director Woo's American debut, a blisteringly staged kickathon in which Jean-Claude Van Damme takes a gang of mercenaries to task in New Orleans (S)(T) (76454).

11.30 Top of the Pops. Zoe Ball and Oasis's latest single. Plus, 911, Sheryl Crow, Alisha's Attic and

Teenage Fan Club (S)(T) (14541). 12.00 FILM Slack Eagle (Eric Karson 1988 US). Smash-bang-wallop a go-go in cold war Malta as Soviet agent Jean-Claude Van Damme tries to nab a hi-tech laser (537961). 1.40 Weather (2598077). To 1.45am. REGIONS: NI: 11.00am Newsline: The

Twelfth of July. 10.00 Newsline: The Twelfth. 10.35 Film: Hard Target. 12.05 Top of the Pops. 12.35 Film: Black Eagle, 2.15 Weather.

BBC2

And the many was to the first of the color

6.20 Open University: The University of Salamanca (7140980), 6.45 The Fires of Life (6340164), 7.10 Going through a Phase (4387763), 7.35 Body in White (7150589), 8.00 Open Saturday (5,18965)

(5-48265). 10.30 Country Walks to Curious Places. 10.30 Country Walks to Curious Places.

8ryan McNerney explores out-of-theway places on five walks in the English
countryside, starting in the Norfolk
Broads (S) (2313589).

10.40 IN The First Rebel (William A Seiter
1939 US). The first of five John Wayne
films today, scheduled to coincide with
last week's Reputations documentary

last week's Reputations documentary about the actor. This one quickly re-teamed Wayne with Claire Trevor, the co-star in his breakthrough movie. Stage Oach. He plays frontiersman Jim Smith, loyal subject of King George III until the Crown (represented by George Sanders) appears to countenance the

selling of arms to Indians (9768812). 11.50 Hancock's Half Hour (R) (3628676). 12.20 ELM Back to Bataan (Edward Dmytryk 194S US), Active-service-dodging Wayne was busy instead making Wayne was busy instead making wartime action movies like this one. He plays a colonel in the US army ordered to organise guerrilla fighters in the occupied Philippines (3:40:6980).

1.50 FIRST Reap the Wild Wind (Cecil B De Mille 1942 US). In this red-blooded

saga, Wayne leads a gang of 19thcentury seadogs carrying valuable cargos up the eastern seaboard while righting over Paulette Godard with Ray illand (65000893).

3.50 First Legend of the Lost (Henry Hathaway 1957 US). John Wayne, Rossano Brazzi and Sophia Loren tramp through the Sahara (330980).

5.35 The Saint (435183).

6.35 Sentiting Pageals the little-known world.

6.25 Scrutiny. Reveals the little-known world of a highly Influential House of Lords select committee, as Oinah Lammirman tours Europe with a group of peers, tours Europe with a group of peers, investigating one of today's most politically sensitive subjects – how Europe spends our money (956386).

7.05 News and Sport (7) (418589).

7.20 David Dimbleby's India, See Preview above (S)(7) (721947).

8.10 Cricket. Highlights of the Benson and Hedges Cup final between Kent and Surrey from Lord's (S) (410744).
9.10 Till Death Us Do Part (R) (964164).

9.40 True Grit (Henry Hathaway 1969 US). Aged 62, John Wayne received his belated and Inevitable Oscar sending belated and Inevitable Oscar sending himself up (as he did consistently towards the end of his career) as a lazy, drink-hardened, one-eyed US marshall shamed by a 14-year-old girl (Kim Darby) Into avenging her father's murder. Glen Campbell plays the bounty hunter who helps out (1) (68894909).

11.45 This Life (S)(7) (599947).

12.25 INTELLIFY (199947).

UK). Stifling art-house flop with

UK). Stifling art-house flop with laughably florid dialogue (barrister Bogarde, when asked by his mistress Bogarde, when asked by his mistress how he and his wife live, says "In a state of unacknowledged mutual extension, behind which we scream silently"), and pretension to spare. The script, about a dying writer (John Gielgud) plotting a novel using his children (Bogarde, Ellen Burstyn, David Warner, Elaine Stritch) as characters, was written by Oavid Mercer (413810). To 2.20am.

6.00 GMTV. 6.00 News. 6.10 Professor
Bubble. 6.30 Barney and Friends. 6.50
Our House. 7.10 8ug Alert! 7.40
Oisney's Wake Up in the Wild Room.
8.50 Power Rangers Zeo.
9.25 Mashed (S) (74290580).
11.15 The Chart Show (S) (318763).
12.15 News, Weather (T) (8656034).
12.20 London Weekend Today (865429).
12.30 F1: British Grand Prix – Qualifying. Jim Rosenthal introduces live coverage from Silverstone (S) (17484638).
2.15 Goodwood Festival of Speed. Highlights from last month's motor festival (5903589).
3.10 FIRM Cannonball Fever (Jim Drake 1989 US). ITV's over-excited car theme stretches to this clapped-out John

1989 (IS). TIV's over-excited the unit of stretches to this clapped-out John Candy chase comedy (84521562).
4.50 News. Results, Weather (9245454).
5.05 London Weekend Tonight (1708198).
S.20 Cartoons (7837522).
S.30 F1: British Grand Prix – Special. Latest

news from Silverstone (S) (266367). 5.50 New Baywatch (S)(T) (719657). 6.40 You've Been Framed! (R)(S) (904541).

Channel 4

6.40 Dennis (6376589). 7.05 Sonic the Hedgehog (R) (3915102). 7.35 The Finder (R) (7145657).

8.00 Transworld Sport (29763). 9.00 Morning Line (S) (98676). 10.00 Channel 4 Athletics (33164). 11.00 Mission Impossible (7) (53928).

12.00 Rawhide (36676). 1.00 Desk Set (Walter Lang 1957 US) The eighth and penultimate paining of Spencer Tracy and Katharine Hepburn may have been their first in colour, but it's a wan, dispirited sitcom in which TV researcher Hepburn thinks computer and efficiency expert Tracy is hoping to put her out of a job (22369270).

2.55 Racing from York. Jim McGrath introduces the 3.10, 3.40, 4.15 and 4.4S races (S) (25167675). 5.05 Brookside Omnibus (S)(T) (3403928).

Marennes to Bordeaux (S) (922947).
7.00 Life in the Flight Path. How Stansted Airport is wildlife friendly (R) (1638).



David Dimbleby's India 7.20pm BBC2 The omnipresent one's two-part study, to mark 50 years of independence

7.10 Love Me Do. Three more couples compete to have their wedding wherever they want (705909).
7.55 News, Weather, Lottery Result (7)

8.10 The 8ig, 8ig Talent Show, Jonathan Ross says "opportunity knocks" for a singer, a comedian, an illusionist and a singer, a comedian, an illusionist and a wannabe pop group (S)(T) (783102).

9.05 Columbo. Peter Falk shambles his wily way through an initially baffling double homicide investigation (66370/763).

10.50 The Jack Dee Show. With guests Julian Clary, Gayle Tuesday, Hale and Pace. Music from Seal (S)(T) (367015).

11.35 Intell Bonnie and Clyde: the True Story (Gary Hoffman 1992 US). You doubt it somehow, don't you, despite this biopic using the actual locations and casting real teenagers Dana Ashbrook and Tracey Needham as the drive Depression era lovers (S)(883454).

1.20 White Cargo (Ray Selfel 973 UK)
Tawdry fag-end-of-the-Swinging Sixtles Tawdry fag-end-of-the-Swinging Sixtes sex comedy, staming a young Oavid Jason as a hapless civil servant becoming involved with the plight of a Soho stripper (S) (690690).

3.00 Box Office America (96286226).

3.25 Rockmania (R) (4514110).

4.15 Dating the Enemy (R)(S) (1379435).

S.0S Cybernet (4686690). To 5.30am.

6.35 Tour de France. The 194km from

7.30 Channel 4 Athletics - BUPA World Trials. The World Cup trials from 8irmlngham (37386). 9.00 ER (R)(S)(T) (8015).

10.00 Drop the Dead Donkey (R)(S) (98928). 10.30 Homicide: Life on the Street (S)(T) (844589).

11.25 Queer Street: Invasions of the 8ighaired Lesbians. See Preview, above (S) 12.15 Queer Street: Queerspotting. A look at

gay and lesbian television programmes. is there a need for exclusively gay television? (S) (27042). 12.45 Queer Street: DIY, Visual poem

dedicated to Joe Orton (S) (8874690). 12.55 Queer Street: Cottage Cheese. A nonjudgmental look at the practice of "cottaging" (S) (8798226).

1.10 TEM Queer Street: Boyfriends (Neil Hunter and Tom Hunsinger 1995 Cornedy drama examining the relationships within and between three gay couples as they arrive at a country weekend retreat (5129961).

2.40 The New Twilight Zone (S) (5747918). 3.10 Pearl. American sitcom (66686961). 3.40 The Naked Truth (R)(S) (98171936). 4.05 Get Up, Stand Up (R)(S) (95019394). 4.35 Porkpie (R) (50-421110). To 5.05am.

Channel 5

6.00 Dappledown Farm (3972893). 6.30 Attractions (R)(S) (5986299). 7.00 5 News Early (S) (7312676). 7.30 Havakazoo (7391183). 8.00 Alvin and the Chipmunks (7281980).

8.00 AMIn and the Chipmunis (7201500). 8.30 Land of the Lost (7280251). 9.00 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (1519980). 9.55 Beverly Hills, 90210 (S) (3604724). 10.50 Mag Upfront (S) (82282386). 11.00 Turnstyle. Sporting preview programme with Dominik Oiamond, including a look ahead to this weekend's British

Grand Prix, and cricket's Benson and Hedges Cup final (S) (25391034). 12.50 5 News (S)(T) (92550725). 1.00 The Mag (S) (4853980). 2.00 USA High (S) (28827742). 2.20 The Mag (Continued). (S) (1476454).

3.15 Sunset Beach Omnibus. Sean's eye problems continue - and you'll think you have eye problems, too, when you see this stuff (7) (77834102). 6.00 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (1682560).

6.05 Hercules: the Legendary Journeys. Midas retakes his kingdom, Sounds like bad news for the price of gold (S)

6.55 Xena: Warrior Princess. See Preview, above (S) (7029725). 7.50 5 News and Sport (S)(T) (9610164). B.10 IAG. Our Navy lawyer investigates a Colombian drug cartel (9636812). 9.00 IIII The Maid (lan Toynton 1991

US/Fr). Womanising Wall Street washout Martin Sheen tries his luck in Paris - and falls for businesswoman Jacqueline Bisset (59320541).

10.40 Res Boxcar Bertha fMartin Scorsese

1972 US). Scorsese by name, but producer Roger Corman by nature, this violent, post-Bonnie and Clyde dramatisation of the real story of Depression era vagrant criminal, Bertha Thompson (Barbara Hershey), Driven round the bend by her father's death in an aeroplane, Hershey takes to the road and falls in with the criminal classes, John and David "Kung Fu" Carradine co-star (75969386).

12.15 IN The Tingler (William Castle 1959 US). Lurid, bizarre and highly original William Castle feature, remembered by its victims long afterwards as the film in which an electric buzzer was put underneath certain cinema seats. Also famous for depicting an LSD trip a decade before these things became modish. Scientist Vincent Price discovers that raw fear can create 8 parasite which attaches itself to the human spine and can only be killed by screaming (5991023).

1.50 HMM Act of Piracy (John Cardos 1988 Aust). Vietnam veteran Gary 8usey springs Into action when a group of miscreants hijack a yacht on its way to Australia with his children (8422139). 3.45 First Rag Doll (Lance Comfort 1960

UK). Teenage runaway Christina Gregg falls in with singing burglar Jess Conrad In this suitably daft offshoot of the kitchen-sink genre (31512394). 4.55 Night Stand. Spoof US talk show. See Larry Sanders for how it should be done (8318394).

5.30 Whittle (R)(S)(T) (3979706). To

ITV/Regions

ANGLIA
As London except: 12.20pm Anglia News and Weather (865-1299). 2.15 Film: Man About the Weather (865-1299). 2.15 Film: Man About the House (531522). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (3710270). 5.05 Anglia News, Sport and Weather (1708198). 11.35 Film: Bonnie and Clyde: The True Story (168657). 1.15 Film: Coopersmith: Sweet Scort of Muxder (1750481). 2.35 Rockmana (4773481). 3.35 Comedy Central (53284/00). 4.35 - 5.30am ITV at the Phoenix Festwal (1384329).

CENTRAL
As London excepts 12.20pm Central News and
Weather (8654299). 2.15 Films Crystalstone
(399473). 3.55 seaOuest 2032 (3735589). 5.05
Central News and Weather (7865305). 5.10 TV
Sport Classics (1290560). 4.15 Jobinder
(6084042). 5.20 - 5.30sm Asian Eye (9486868).

HTV WALES
As London except: 12.20pm HTV News
(8654299). 2.15 sexQuest DSV (5903589). 3.10
Airwolf :6050909). 4.05 Cartoon Time
(7020725). 4.15 Roadiunner (8474386).
5.05 HTV Wales News and Sports Results
(7708198). 11.35 Film: Bonnie and Chyde: The
True Story (168657). 1.15 Film: Coopersmith:
Sweet Scent of Murder (1750481). 2.35 Rockmania (4773481). 3.35 Comedy Centual
(5328-4001. 4.35 - 5.30am ITV at the Phoenix
Festival (1384329).

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Festival (1384329) As HTV Wales except: 4.15pm The List 184743861.5.05 - 5.20pm HTV West News and Weather (1708198).

MERIDIAN
As London except: 12.20pm Mendian News and Weather (8654299). 2.15 Go Fishing Waters Deep and Shallow (268034), 2.45 Cartoon (2787676). 2.55 Highway to Heaven (7637763). 3.50 seaQuest DSV (374,0270). 5.05 Mendian News and Weather (1708198). 11.35 Film: Bornne and Clyde: The Tiue Story (168657). 1.15 Film: Coopersmith: Sweet Scant of Murder (1750481), 2.35 Rockmania (4773481). 3.35 Cornedy Central (5328400). 4.35 - 5.30am ITV at the Phoenix Festival (1384329). Festival (1384329).

WESTCOUNTRY
As London except: 12.20pm Westcountry News (8654299). 2.15 Filme Carry On Regardless* (399473), 3.55 Thunder in Paradise (3735569). 5.05 Westcountry News (1708195). 11.35 Films Bonnie and Clyde: The True Story (168657), 1.15 WESTCOUNTRY Film: Coopersmith: 5weet Scent of Murder (1750481), 2.35 Rockmanla (4773481), 3.35 Comedy Central (5328400), 4.35 - 5.30am ITV at the Phoenix Festival (1384329).

YORKSHIR!
As London except: 12,20pm Calendar News and Weather (8654299). 2.15 Carloon Time (73203034). 2.20 Film: Burning Bridges (5617631. 3.5S seaCuest OSV (3735589). 5.05 Calendar News and Weather (7865305). 5.10 Scoreline (1290560). 1.20 That's Action (152400). 3.15 Coach (96372077). 3.40 Filmy Business (98173394). 4.05 Collins and Marconle's Movie Club (95011752). 4.35 - 5.30am Murder, She Wrote (1384329). Murder, She Wrote (138-1329).

As Yorkshire except: 12.20pm North East News (8654299), 5.05 North East News (7865305), 5.10 - 5.30pm Cartoon Time (2321741). CHANNEL 3 NORTH EAST

AS C4 except: 10.00am Boy Meels World (18367), 10.30 Boy Meels World (54937), 11.00 Channel 4 Athletics (53928), 12.00 Mission; Impossible (36676), 5.05 Brookside (3529251), 6.30 Tour de France (473), 7.00 Newyddion a Chwaraeon (404336), 7.15 Sice Fach (795522), 8.00 Uangollen 97 (737812), 11.00 Rygbi: Anuarica y Cymru (396183), 12.55 Channel 4 Athletics (1986), 10.00 Channel 4 C ica v Cymru (396183). 12.55 Channel 4 Athletics - BUPA World Trais (3980961). 2.25 -2.40am Fresh Pop (4854226).

Radio

Radio 2

6.00am 0ave Pearce 9.30 Mark Goodier 12.30 Lisa l'Anson 3.30 Trevor Nelson 6.30 Danny Rampling - Lovegroove Danca Party 9.00 Radio 1 Rap Show 12.00 Radio 1 Reggae Oancehall Nite 2,00 Essential Mix Ormin from Paris 4.00-6.00am Annie Nightingale

ns equality स्था 6.00am Mo Outta 8.05 Brian 6,00am Mo Outta 8,05 Gran Matthew 10.00 Steve Wright's Sat-urday Show 1.00 Talking Cornedy 1.30 The What If Show 2.00 Judi Spiers 4.00 Alan Freeman 5.30 Joan Baez in Concert 6.30 Read-ing Music 7.30 Cathedral Concer-tos 9.30 David Jacobs 10.00 Book 2 11.00 Bob Harris 1.00 Jon Brig-Es 4.00-7.00am Mo Outta

Radio 3 go 1.97 4Mt; RA 6.55am Weather, News Headlines. 7.00 Record Review. 9.00 Building a Library. 10.15 Record Release. 12.00 Private Passions. In the last of the series, Michael Berkeley

of the series, Michael Berkeley talks to Lord Harawood.

1.00 News: Vintage Years. At the age of 60, Vladimir Ashkenazy shows no sign of running out of steam, in the final programme of the senes, Chris de Souza talks to some of the paintist's conductors and the paintist's conductors and the paintist's conductors and close associates, and brings the story up to date with some recent recordings. 3.00 Cardiff Singer of the World Masterclass. Stuart Burrows

puts some of the competitions

through their paces in his mas-

ierclass and talks to Elaine Pad-3.45 Jazz Record Requests. 4.25 Live from Covent Garden: Ole Meistersinger, Wagner's comedy is set in 16th-century Numberg on the eve and the day of the Mastersinger's singing contest. Nancy Gustalson, soprano (Eva). Catherine Wyn-Rogers, soprano (Magdalene), Gosta Winbergh, tener (Walther), Herbert Lippert, tener (David), Thomas Allen, ban-tone (Beckmesser), Royal Opera Charus, Orchestra of the Rayal

Opera House Bernard Haltmik, Act 5.55 Music Matters 5.55 Muse Matters
6.30 Die Meisterunger, Act 2.
7.40 The Closing of the House.
8.00 Oie Meisterunger, Act 3.
10.30 Books Abroad. This week, bue-crime thullers in Kenya, the writing of Egyptian emigration.

Choice



A culturally elevating day: Die Meistersinger (4.25pm R3) comes live from Covent Garden, the last performance ... before it closes for 2B months for rebuilding. Teresa Gallagher and Toby Stephens star in a new four-part dramatisation of Anna Karenina (11.30pm WS, rpt 6.30am and 7.30pm Sun). It beats sticking your head under a train.

Greek novels ancient and mod-em, and new life in Beinit's 1.00 Impressions. With Brian Morton and Alyn Shipton. Tonight, sets from the Sergei

Kuryokhin memorial concert in May at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, London, including the duo of Evan Parker (soprano/tenor x/bass clarinet), and a solo set by pianist John Wolf Brennan. 1.00-7.00 Through the Night.

Radio 4 62.494 Blok RL 1984k UV 6.00am News Briefing. 6.10 Farming Today. 6.50 Prayer for the Day. 6.55 Weather. 7.00 Today. 8.58 Weather.

9.00 News. 9.05 Sport on 4. 9.30 Breakaway. 10.00 News; John Walters: Stuck In... Heathrow. 10.30 Kit and the Widow's Grand 11.00 News: The Week in West.

11.30 EuroFile. 12.00 Inside Money 12.25 I'm Sorry 1 Haven't a Clue.

12,55 Weathers
1.00 News.
1.10 Any Questions? Jonathan
Ombleby chairs a topical discussion with Frank Dobson MP,
Michael Jack MP, And Lesile
and the Rt Rev Dr Michael
Nazir-Ali, Bishop of Rochester. 1.55 Shipping Forecast. 2.00 News; Arry Answers: (0171) 580 4444. 2.30 Saturday Playhouse: The

Westward Journey, 5y Ellen Dry-den, 'We are now be; and the Missour River, We have left the

States behind. Ahead of us lie

the great unconlised plains." On the wagon trains of the penious integration across America to

Oregon and California, the strength of women was tested against the ambition and pride of their men. 4.00 News; A Brief History of the Future. 4.30 Science Now.

5.00 File on 4.
5.40 Letters to the Future.
5.50 Shipping Forecast.
5.55 Weather. 5.00 Six O'Clock News. 6.25 Goodness Gracious Me. 6.50 Ad Lib. 7.20 Kaleidoscope Feature. In the

centre of Hull is a thriving Ferens Gallery, which this year cel-ebrates its 70th birthday. Petroc Trelawny presents a celebration of the gallery's anniversary, including a specially commis-sioned poem by Hull University graduate Roger McGough.
7.50 On These Oays.
8.50 Saturday Night Theatre: The
Eyes of Max Carrados. By E Bra-

Coules. 1923: A desperate girl tries to clear her father, and only the celebrated blind detective May Carrados can do it. With Simon Calkow as Max and Li-onel Jeffnes as Parkinson. (R) 9.35 Classics with Kay. 9.50 Ten to Ten Graham Kings, di-9.50 Ten to len Graham Angs. or rector of the Henry Martyn Li-brary in Cambridge, selects a story from his bookshelves.
9.59 Weather.

magh, dramatised by Bert

10.00 News. 10.15 Late Night Theatre Worldplay: Lapse in Behaviour. By Timothy Daly. Harold Carpent is a piano teacher, middle-aged and mild-mannered, He leads a predictable and ordered life. But his peaceful existence is shattered by the arrival of his new music pupil, With Peter Carroll, Judy Farr and Neil Fitzpatrick. 11.05 Late Night Theatre: Write out Loud – Highwayman's Heath/Crice There Was a Man.

A double bill of short plays, pro-

duced in association with the Arts Council. 11.15 The Gallery of Perfection. (R) 11.30 Looking Forward to the Past. (R)

12.00 News.
12.30 Late Story: A Safe Pair of Hands. By John F McNamara.
12.48 Shipping Forecast.
1.00 As World Service.
5.50 Inshore Forecast.
5.51 Relice on Sunday. 5.51 Bells on Sunday. 5.55-6.00am Shipping Forecast. Radio 4 LW

192.4-94 6MHz FM; 198MHz LW) 11.00-1.00pm Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup Final. Coverage from Lord's. 1.10-1.55 Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup Final. 2.00-5.50 Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup Final. 5.55-7.00pm Cricket: Benson and Hedges Cup Final.

Radio 5 (93.) 994k: MM 6.00am Dirty Tackle 6.30 The Breakfast Programme 9.00 Week-end 10.30 Marketing Rules 11.00 Sport on Five 6.06 Six-0-Sx 8.00 Sport on Five 6.00 Dallyn LIK Sport on Five 6.06 Six-U-Six a.00
The Treatment 9.00 Dallyn UK
10.00 Brief Lives 10.30 Rajamutifies 11.00 News Extra 11.30
The 8ig Fight 12.30 After Hours
2.00 Up All Night S.00-6.00am

Classic FM

(100-19) 988b FM) 6.00am Sarah Lucas 9.00 Count down 12.00 Masters of Their Art 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Margaret 1.00 Alan Mann 3.00 Margaret Howard 6.00 Gardening Forum 7.00 Opera Guide 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 The Classic Quiz 12.00 Sally Peterson 2.00 Evening Concert 4.00-6.00am Sally Peterson

(1215, 1197-1260M/z MM 105.8MMz FM)

6.00am Lynn Parsons 9.00 Nicky Home 12.00 Jeremy Clark 3.00 The Album Chart 6.00 Richard Porter 10.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00-6.00am Howard Pearce **World Service**

Virgin Radio

(1994): U/A 1.00am Newsdesk 1.30 Letter from America 1.45 Britain Today 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Encyclopak dia Historica 3.00 Newsday 3.30 Music Review 4.00 World News 4.05 World Business Review 4.15 Sports Roundup 4.30 From Our Own Correspondent 5.00 Newsdesk 5.30-6.00am Global

Satellite/cable

7.00am My Little Pony (87909). 7.30 Delfy and His Friends (997.44). 8.00 Press Your Luck (49676). 8.30 Love Connection (48947). 9.00 Quantum Leap (29560), 10.00 Kung Fu (95928). 11.00 Legends of the Hidden City (55251). 11.30 Sea Rescute (56980). 12.00 Wrestling (58812). 1.00 Wrestling (67560). 2.00 Star Tiek (64560). 3.00 Star Tiek (7580). 2.00 Star Trek (64560) 3.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation (67096). 4.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (79831). 5.00 Star Trek: Voyager (8183). 6.00 Xara: Warrior Princess (54096). 7.00 Hercules: The Leg-endary Journeys (13763). 8.00 Cop-pers (8560). 8.30 Cops (4367). 9.00 Cops II (75015). 9.30 LAPD (595411 10.00 Law and Order 9.00 Cops II (75015). 9.30 LAPD (59541). 10.00 Law and Order (12034). 11.00 LA Law (96657). 12.00 The Movie Show (68771). 12.30 LAPO (29394). 1.00 Orsam On (65110). 1.30 Saturday Night, Sunday Morning (10477). 2.00-6.00em Hit Mix (7471665).

sat 2 7,00pm 5uperboy (3802693), 7.30 Superboy (5617980), 8.00 Hercules; The Legendary Journeys (2281299), 9.00 Pacific Drive (2284386), 11.00 In the Heat of the Night (6116299), 12.00-6.00am Hit Mix (8224868).

MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Little Orbit the Astrodog (6707909), 7.15 Return to Treasure Island (2197096), 8.30 The Scarlet Flower (4392589), 9.45 The Tall T (1382015). 11.05 Carnival In Costa Rica (84495251). 12.45 The Day They Gave Bables Away (68175164). 2.30 House Calls (35689251). 4.1S My Uncle: The Alien (54159909). 6.00 Blankman (81164). 8.00 Pontiac Moon (93909). 10.00 Little ac moon (933909), 10,00 Little Odessa (598589), 11,40 Dangerous Indiscretion (150657), 1,05 Circle of Friends (793771), 2,55-6,00am Twogether (30613495).

B.00am Running Brave (43386). 8.00 The Neverending Story III (44952265). 9.4S Time Trax (847270). 11.45 Things Change (23775015). 1.30 Breaking Away (56386). 3.30 The Neverending Story III (992744). S.15 Time Trav (52152251). 7.00 Congo (B5541). 9.00 The Lawnmower Man 2: Beyond Cyberspace (94638). 11.00 In decent Behaviour II (738270), 12.35 Beyond Rangoon I510482), 2.1S She Fought Alone (301226). 3.45-

SOLUTION SERVICES (SCILID 6.00cm Butch and Sundance: The Early Days (49680657), 7,50 The Magnificent Seven (22135473).

6.00am Petulia (36477394).

10.00 Young Guns (1934454). 11.50 Rawhide* (2218015). 1.20 The Ballad of Cable Hogue 157486042). 3.25-6.00am Stagecoach (91412394).

SKY SPORTS 1
7.00am Big Shots (36096), 8.00 Externs Sport (46102), 8.30 Racing (45473), 9.00 Super League (52541), 10.30 Cricket – Benson and Hedges Cup Final (6939367), 2.30 Rugby: Australia v England (3034), 3.00 Cricket – Benson and Hedges Cup Final (1476831), 7.30 Rugby: Australia v England (20034), 9.00 Boxing (3751893), 2.00 Rugby: Australia v England (79394), 3.30-6.30am Cricket – Benson and Hedges Cup Final (61042).

SKY SPORTS 2 SRT SPORTS 2
7,00am World Sport (5601522).
7,30 Sports Centre (5620657). 8,00
Soccer AM I/724657). 10,30 Rugby
(4462251). 1,00 Tennis (4699676).
4,00 Pool (6961218). 8,00 Boxing
(8647893). 6,30 Futbol Mundial (8661473), 7.00 Big Shots (8380251), 8.00 Pool (8300015). 10.00 Cricket – Benson and Hedges Cup Final (9448541). 12.00-1.00am Iron Man (2345400).

SKY SPORTS 3 12.00moon Survival of the Fittest (12572015). 12.30 Big Shots (50190299). 1.30 Motor Sports (48722560). 4.30 Sports Unlimited (57584763). 5.30 Wild Spirits (19504893), 6.00 Iron Man (10327676). 7.00 Survival of the Fittest (52028305). 7.30 Golf USA: Senior Players (70381812). 9.30-12.00midnight Golf: US Women's Open (13532218).

6.00am Pin Money 7.00 Fastion 7.30 Sport B.00 A Game of Two Scarves 8.30 Looking for Love 8.45 Pet Squad 9.00 Revelations 9.30 Fashion 10.00 Agony 10.30 Looking tor Love 10.45 Pet Squad 11.00 Trial TV 11.30 Fate and Fortune 12.00 Why Files? 12.30 Agony 1.30 Trial TV 2.00 Fashion 2.30 Agony 3.00 Fate and Fortune 3.30 Pin Money 4.00 Revelations 4.30 Pet Squad 4.4S Looking for Love 5.00 A Game of Two Scarves 5.30 Why Files? 6.00 Fashion 6.30 Sport 7.00 Pin Money 7.30 A Game of Two Scarves 8.00 Pet Squad B.15 Looking for Love 8.30 Agony 9.00 Handy Hunks; fSham Rock Quiz 9.30 Trial TV 10.00 Topless Darts; Sport 10.30 Stand-Up 11.00 Topless Darts; Fate and For-tune 11.30 Sex 12.00 Handy Hunks Exotica Erotica 12.30 A Game of Two Scarves 1.00 Stand-Up 1.30-6.00am Night-time programmes



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